Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

At this point, have you already chosen which gubernatorial candidate to vote for in the November elections?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 5

As of June 2, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Pixar Find

"Up" director Pete Docter knew he would have to be resourceful in getting shy Jordan Nagai, 9, to laugh on cue.

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Only 26 new vehicles sold in May. **PAGE 2**
Shell follows Mobil, hikes fuel prices. **PAGE 6**

DOC tightens rules on foreign students

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The newly published rules on foreign students strictly prohibits the transfer of alien enrollees to any public schools in the CNMI and requires private schools to be certified by the Commerce Department to legitimize their business on island.

This was stressed by Commerce Secretary Michael Ada during yesterday's meting with representatives and operators of 15 private educational institutions on Capital Hill.

He said one of the biggest changes requires all foreign students to be present not only during enrollment but all throughout the school term.

It also lessens the liability of the government to alien enrollees by giving schools the responsibility to approve, check, and monitor the sponsors of foreign students, particularly non-dormitory type institutions.

He said the "excessive"

See DOC on Page 4

$162.8M FY10 budget stays for now

Lawmakers point to effects of delayed federalization

Acting Finance Secretary Bob Schrack answers questions from members of the House Ways and Means Committee at a resource hearing on the Fiscal Year 2010 budget in the House chamber yesterday afternoon.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting Finance Secretary Bob Schrack told the House Ways and Means Committee yesterday that the Fitial administration's budget request of $162.82 million for Fiscal Year 2010 stays for now despite lawmakers' concerns about the $3.242 million drop in the Compact Impact funding for the CNMI.

Of the projected gross budgetary resources for FY2010, only $150.5 million is available for appropriation.

The other $4.65 million is earmarked for tobacco control, solid waste management, and the Commonwealth Utilities

See $162.8M on Page 4

CPA: Forgive bad debt of past officials

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority wants to forgive the bad debts incurred by the agency's past officials and board members because the issue continues to reflect poorly on CPA's financial audits and performance.

CPA executive director Efrain Camacho has proposed to the board of directors writing off as bad debt a total of $26,574 that is recorded in its books.

Camacho said that since 1992, CPA has accumulated a total of $26,574 in charges by past board members that have not been reimbursed by the members.

Of the amount, $23,686 had gone past the statute of limitations and any legal demand is therefore moot.

"For the past several years, our auditors have recommended that this amount be written-off as a bad debt. It is

See CPA on Page 4

Robot sub plunges into Marianas abyss

Nereus passes 10K meter in dive to Challenger Deep

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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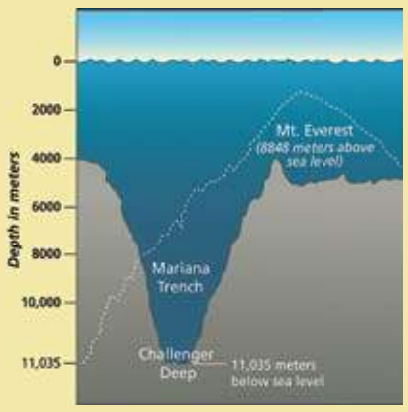
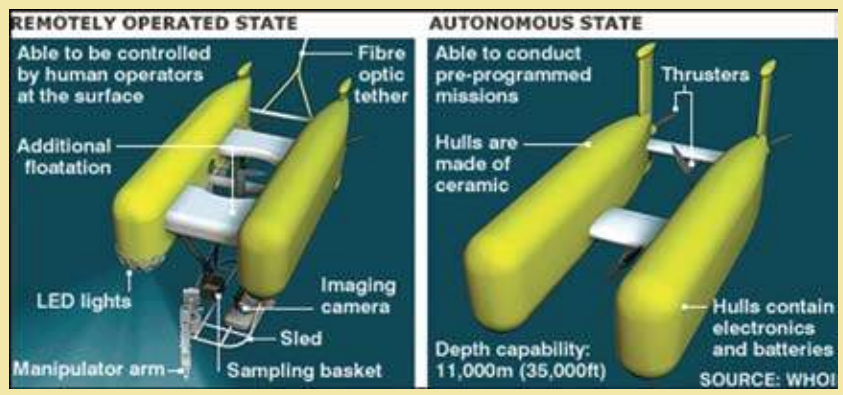
REPORTER

Nereus, a robotic submarine, has started exploring the deepest-known part of the world's oceans called the Challenger Deep, located in the Marianas Trench near the CNMI and Guam.

On Sunday, the hybrid remotely oper-

See ROBOT on Page 4





Challenger Deep in the Pacific's Mariana Trench is more than a mile deeper than Mount Everest is high. Illustration by Jack Cook, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Local

Census officials present '07 NMI economic census results

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Two U.S. Census Bureau officials are on island to present the results of the 2007 Economic Census of the CNMI which was released in March this year, showing a 28 percent drop in the Commonwealth's business sales and a 6.6 percent decrease in the number of businesses.

CNMI business sales reached only $1.3 billion in 2007, a 28-percent decline from the previous economic census in 2002 with $1.8 billion in sales, mainly due to garment factory closures since 2005, a continuous drop in tourist arrivals and a general economic downturn.

Lee Wentela, chief of the Economic Census Branch, and Charles Funk, assistant division chief for surveys and programs, yesterday presented to the media the results of the latest economic census report, said John Blanco, director of the CNMI Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division.

Wentela and Funk will also be presenting in today's general membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

The two also said planning for the 2012 economic census has begun.

Results of the next economic census may be worse with the complete demise of the garment industry and the local and global economic difficulties.

The result of the 2007 economic census for the CNMI was the first one to be released among U.S. territories. The Guam economic census report was released only last week and the results were presented by Wentela and Funk, before flying to the CNMI this week.

More information about the Economic Census of Island Areas is available at www.census.gov/csd/ia/index.html.

The CNMI had only 1,191 businesses in 2007, a 6.6 drop from 1,276 in 2002.

The number of individuals employed by businesses also went down by 31 percent, from 32,790 in 2002 to only 22,622. Annual payroll also dropped by 35 percent from $381.6 million in 2002 to only $246.1 million in 2007.

In 2007, the CNMI had 200 businesses with 20 or more employees, representing 17 percent of all businesses. These businesses accounted for 67 percent or $866 million of total sales.

The 14-island CNMI, a U.S. territory in the western Pacific Ocean, had an estimated population of 86,616 in 2008.

Only 26 new vehicles sold in May

Only 26 new cars, vans, trucks and sport utility vehicles were sold in May, the lowest monthly sales recorded by the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association since the start of 2009 as financial difficulties continue to dampen consumers' buying power.

CADA sold the same number of used or secondhand vehicles in May.

In its latest report released yesterday, CADA said the 26 new vehicles sold in May marked a 45.83 percent decrease from the 48 units sold during the same month last year.

CADA sold 36 new vehicles in January; 28 in February; 31 in March; 33 in April; before plunging to 26 in May.

Of the 26 new units sold last month, 15 were sold by Microl Corp., while eight were by Joeten Motors and three by Triple "J" Motors.

Between January and May this year, CADA sold only 154 new vehicles, representing a 47.44 percent plunge from the same months last year.

The most saleable vehicle make and model in May was Toyota Corolla with eight new units sold.

Three new units each of Toyota Yaris and Nissan Rogue were sold in May, followed by two new units each of Nissan Frontier and Mitsubishi Outlander.

CADA members sold one new unit each of Kia Rio, Mazda3, Nissan Altima, Ford Ranger, Toyota Tacoma, Toyota Sienna, GM Vans and Toyota Highlander in May. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Munson postpones motion hearings in case of Villagomez, co-defendants

The federal court has rescheduled all hearings on the U.S. government's motion to compel the disclosure of the identity of the person who revealed the relationships between some witnesses and jurors in the Rydlyme case.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson said the U.S. government's motion to compel, which was set to be heard tomorrow, Thursday, is rescheduled to next Thursday, June 11 at 9am.

Munson said off-island lawyers involved in the case may appear by telephone with prior notice to the court if this change affects their schedule.

The judge also ordered that all motions in the case set to be heard on June 22 are rescheduled to June 25 at 9am.

The case relates to the conviction of former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, James A. Santos and Joaquina V. Santos on charges of conspiracy to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, theft concerning a program receiving federal funds, and bribery.

Last May 1, Villagomez and Joaquina Santos filed a motion for judgment of acquittal notwithstanding the verdict, a motion to disqualify Munson, motion for a new trial, and motion for judgment of acquittal or new trial.

In response to the motions, the U.S. government also filed a motion to compel and a motion for in camera inspection.

A legal proceeding is "in camera" when a hearing is held before the judge in his or her private chambers or when the public is excluded from the courtroom. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

New local law allocates $147K for 19 Rota patients

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law a local bill appropriating $147,000 from local license fees collected from poker and pachinko slot machines on Rota to 19 patients and four other government programs and activities.

House Local Bill 16-24, introduced by Rep. Victor B. Hocog (Ind-Rota), is now Rota Local Law 16-6 after Fitial signed it on May 29.

The $147,000 is appropriated for the following:

Up to $2,000: For the reimbursement to medical referral patient Yvonne H. Manglona for her qualified medical referral expenses in Guam incurred in February 2009, provided she submits documentation of her qualified expenses allowed under the CNMI Medical Referral Program.

$12,500: For subsistence assistance to be distributed equally to 13 hemodialysis or terminally ill patients from Rota who are on Saipan for treatment and are provided housing assistance at government expense either in government quarters or hotels/motels.

$17,500: For subsistence assistance to be distributed equally to five hemodialysis patients from Rota, who must temporarily live on Saipan for medical treatment, but are not provided housing either in government quarters of at a hotel/motel under contract with the government. The expenditure authority for this appropriation is not authorized to require subsistence recipients to submit any documentation, including receipts, billings, financial forms or any other document in order or as condition to receive payment under the local law. Appendix "A" of Rota Local Law 16-6 identified these patients as Margarita Castro, Cristobal Omar, Vicente San Nicolas, Dolores Santos and Fermina Mendiola.

$50,000: For the Office of the Mayor of Rota for public programs, public sports facilities, and other public projects. The local law, however, does not identify the specific programs to be funded.

$15,000: For the housing expenses of Rota students attending Northern Marianas College on Saipan.

$25,000: For the transportation and lodging of Rota Little League players for the upcoming 2009 District Little League tournament on Saipan.

$25,000: For the non-profit Romarca's cash on scale revolving fund.

The local law gives the expenditure authority over the appropriated funds to the Rota mayor, the NMC president, Rota Little League president, and Romarca president.

NMI explores first betel-nut research project

'First 1,500 samples confiscated in Korea'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI will explore its first-ever research study on betel nut to see how mass production could enhance the island's economy in this time of global distress.

To be spearheaded by the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services, the study will be done in collaboration with two institutes in South Korea, which will do the necessary tests and assessment of the produce.

NMC-CREES officials recently brought 1,500 betel nut samples to Korea for evaluation and testing.

However, *Saipan Tribune* learned that the produce were seized by Korean quarantine officers after finding pests in the packed betel nuts.

Although no tests were done on the seized items, Isidoro T. Cabrera, NMC-CREES agricultural specialist, assured that the research would push through as talks are ongoing between NMC-CREES and the Korean researchers who will conduct the tests.

One of them is Dr. Yoon Yohan, a senior researcher of radiation food science and biotechnology at the Kaeri Institute.

Cabrera said the research aims to develop a proper preservation technique for the betel nut.

From the typical five- to seven-day lifespan of a betel nut, they hope to extend this to months—enough to sustain the demand during off-season.

The confiscated betel nuts, Cabrera said, were found deteriorating during the third to fourth day in Korea.

He said the Korean institutes and their experts have agreed to assist in the project and have offered the use of its facilities for product testing.

'80,000 betel nut trees'

There are approximately 80,000 betel-nut producing trees on Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

Each tree usually produced four bunches of nuts during a good harvesting season, equivalent to about 600 betel nuts.

Each bunch bears about 150 nuts, with an estimated market value of $60-$75.

Yet the CNMI continues to import thousands of betel nuts from Yap and Pohnpei during the off-season. Betel nut is a $9 million industry in the CNMI but only half of the amount stays on Saipan as the rest goes to Yap and Pohnpei.

"If we can develop a proper preservation technique for our betel nut, we can sustain the demands all throughout the year," Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that this will reduce if not eliminate the importation from Yap and Pohnpei.

Cabrera said the research effort was also motivated by the fact that every year they noted a significant increase in the demand for betel nut, resulting in bigger imports.

The months of August to January are considered the peak season for betel nut production on island.

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Proportionate pension for Fund members proposed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A resolution to implement proportionate pensions for all Fund members is now being assessed at the committee level of the Retirement Fund board and may be voted on by trustees during a scheduled meeting tomorrow.

Under the proposal, pensions of retirees would be calculated based on the actual contribution made by their employers rather than the existing formula of basing the pension on the number of years members contributed to the Fund.

Board chair Juan T. Guerrero said the measure would aid the Fund in addressing its huge pension liability to members.

Unsure of the votes of other trustees, Guerrero believes that voting for the measure would help alleviate the condition of the Fund's investments.

The Fund withdraws about $5 million monthly from its investment funds to pay for the pension benefits of members.

The board had approved the drawdown of up to $45.5 million a year from the investment fund.

Yesterday, Guerrero said the resolution is the board's answer to the call of the Fitial administration and the Legislature "to do something."

At present, the Fund does not allow members with delinquent contributions to retire. Its unfunded liability to pensioners stands at $575 million.

The chairman said the "proportionate pension" has been on the table for quite some time but was not considered and acted upon pending a similar legislation at the Senate.

The bill recommending proportionate pensions for members was introduced in the Senate in 2008. Like the proposed resolution, it is intended to address the economic crisis facing by the Fund.

However, the bill has been sitting at the Legislature after a number of government agencies and departments opposed the bill.

53 countries now with confirmed cases of H1N1 flu

The number of countries with confirmed cases of H1N1 flu has now risen to 53, according to an update from the Department of Public Health Emergency Operations Center.

The death toll has reached 99 as of Monday, June 1, with a total of 15,510 confirmed cases. These include 8,975 cases in 49 states in the U.S., with 15 deaths.

The latest countries affected by the flu virus were Honduras, Iceland and Kuwait.

There is no confirmed case of H1N1 in the CNMI, which still under pandemic alert level 5.

DPH said it continues to conduct active flu surveillance around the islands, including Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Rapid flu testing are conducted at the Commonwealth Health Center, Marianas Medical Center, Medical Associates of the Pacific Clinic and health centers on Rota and Tinian.

All tests, regardless of results, are sent to a laboratory in San Antonio, Texas for further evaluation.

In an effort to involve the local community to help prevent the spread of the virus, DPH issued three main critical guidelines to organizations or agencies.

First, communicate and actively pass along credible information such as health updates to members, employees, customers and their families. You can also access H1N1 information at CDC's website, http//www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Second, continue to encourage members and employees to adopt healthy behaviors such as the flu WATCH tips.

Third, implement workplace policies that support healthy behaviors. An example of a workplace policy is one that would advise employees who are sick or have flu-like symptoms to stay home. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

DOC

From Page 1

charges paid by parents of foreign students would be eliminated through the implementation of the new regulations.

School representatives admitted that majority of parents of foreign students pay the school and the home sponsor separately.

Ada said that for the homestay program alone, foreign parents pay some $3,000 to $4,000 monthly, even to home sponsors that don't meet the requirements.

"We need the schools' help because the homestay program [for these foreign students] is one of our biggest problems at present. The parents pay as much as $4,000 monthly on top of the amount they pay your school… and if you're being taxed on these two, that's big money," Ada said.

As of yesterday, only three schools have submitted applications for certification to the Commerce Department.

Ada encouraged them to turn in their forms to expedite the process and prevent any impact on the next school year, which starts in August.

For institutions that are certified by national accrediting commissions such as the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Ada said the department must also be informed about it. These certificates will be "grandfathered" under the new regulations.

He stressed that school that are not certified by the department will not be allowed to enroll foreign students.

Commerce is set to issue a one-year certification for schools in anticipation of changes that may occur during the transition period for federalization.

'Sponsorship scheme ground for revocation'

Ada said the new regulations mostly mirror what many U.S. states do with their foreign enrollees.

He said the changes also aim to solve the "sponsorship schemes" that have been in existence for many years on the island.

"If something happens to the sponsor student or we find some sponsorship schemes going on…that's a clear ground for revocation of your certificates," he warned.

In a recent Board of Education meeting, private school representative Scott Norman said many foreign students later transfer to public schools—a clear violation of the existing regulation on foreign enrollees.

"There are sponsors who continuously rake in the money and enroll these kids in public schools. We want to stop this practice," said Ada.

However, the regulations allow the transfer of a foreign student to another certified school, provided their records are submitted to Commerce for notification.

"This is one sure way of tracking these foreign students," he said.

By tweaking the system, Ada believes that more foreign students will be encouraged to enroll in CNMI schools.

'Existing students' permits still valid'

Ada also clarified that entry permits issued to foreign students are still valid. However, some problems may occur if these students leave the island at a time when their schools have yet to be certified by Commerce.

Ada advised schools to expedite their application so the agency can notify the Immigration Division about students returning from summer vacation.

"Once you get the certification, we will immediately notify Immigration about these returning foreign students," he said.

$162.8M

From Page 1

Corp.'s debt to the Marianas Public Land Trust, while the other $7.67 million will go to payment of debts.

But Schrack said the government needs to limit its spending in the remaining months of FY 2009 because of a projected budget deficit of $3 million, based on the first six months of the current fiscal year.

"Based on the first six months, it appears that we're on track to meet the revenue projection; on the expenditure side, we need to cut down some expenditures to balance the budget," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Despite earlier statements that government employees may lose their jobs due to the passage of the FY 2009 budget, not a single government employee has been furloughed yet.

In a resource hearing yesterday afternoon in the House chamber, Schrack said the drastic drop in proposed Compact Impact funding for the CNMI in FY 2010 of $1.93 million from $5.172 million in FY 2009 will not affect the budget projections because it's considered an "expense reduction."

But committee chair Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), along with other members, asked Schrack to consider revising the FY 2010 revenue projections to factor in the impact of the federalization delay.

The start of transition to federal immigration was delayed by 180 days, from June 1 to Nov. 28, 2009.

Because of this, the CNMI government will still be able to collect labor and immigration fees for at least two months during FY 2010, from October to November.

In the Fitial administration's proposed FY 2010 budget, it projects "zero" collection from both the Nonresident Workers Fund and the Deportation Fund.

Since FY 2010 begins on Oct. 1, this means the CNMI government will still have a two-month collection period.

During the resource hearing, Schrack said he will go over the lawmakers' recommendations with the administration. He said it's not going to be a lot of money—"less than a million."

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) also asked Schrack about federal stimulus funding coming the CNMI's way.

Schrack said of the estimated $8 million in federal formula stabilization fund applied for, the administration earmarks $4 million for FY 2009 and the other $4 million for FY 2010.

The acting Finance secretary said only 6 percent of the total federal stimulus funding has been distributed among U.S. states, and distribution among U.S. territories has not begun yet. He said no money has been actually received by the CNMI, although it has received grant notifications.

Reps. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) also asked Schrack whether Finance is on track to release tax rebate checks as promised by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. Schrack said the target is to complete processing the tax rebates by June 15, so taxpayers could expect to receive their rebates days after June 15.

The House Ways and Means Committee, majority of its members present in yesterday's resource hearing, has been meeting with government agencies and departments about their FY 2010 budget.

ROBOT

From Page 1

ated vehicle *Nereus* passed the 10,000-meter mark.

Challenger Deep is reported to be 11,000 meters deep, more than 1.2 miles deeper than Mount Everest is high.

At that depth, pressure reaches 1,100 times the pressure at the surface.

After a six-hour journey to the bottom on Sunday, *Nereus* reached 10,600 meters deep, according to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, which is conducting the May 23 to June 6, 2009 expedition.

WHOI (www.whoi.edu), the world's largest private, nonprofit ocean research, engineering and education organization, is using the free social networking and micro-blogging service Twitter to help document the progress of the *Nereus* exploration of Challenger Deep.

For the latest update on the WHOI exploration, go to http://twitter.com/WHOIExpeditions.

ON THE NET

WHOI: www.whoi.edu
For updates: http://twitter.com/WHOIExpeditions

The WHOI-led team aboard the research vessel *Kilo Moana* is conducting a series of sea trials with *Nereus*, taking the vehicle to ever-greater depths from 1,000 meters to 4,000 meters, then 8,000 meters and ultimately, 11,000 meters.

WHOI's goal is to take *Nereus* to the deepest abyss on Earth, the Challenger Deep.

At 4am on Monday, *Nereus* was recovered and brought back to the surface before launching dive No. 12 yesterday morning.

Early yesterday afternoon or at about 1pm, *Nereus* was again nearing the 10,000-meter mark after over six hours, and was still descending, according to WHOI's latest entry on Twitter.

The *Nereus* project is led by Andy Bowen and Dana Yoerger of WHOI and Louis Whitcomb of Johns Hopkins University.

The science team includes Patty Fryer, a geologist at the University of Hawaii, and WHOI biologist Tim Shank, Biologist.

Nereus is the first unmanned vehicle to explore the Marianas Trench since 1995, when the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology brought its ROV *Kaiko* there. *Kaiko* was lost in 2003 after the cable it was suspended from snapped.

The first and only manned expedition to the Mariana Trench occurred in 1960, when Jacques Piccard and Don Walsh traveled there in the U.S. Navy-owned bathyscaphe *Trieste*.

CPA

From Page 1

management's desire to remove these auditor remarks from future audits," Camacho told the board.

Additionally, the executive director disclosed that CPA has receivables from prior transactions that are again past hope of collection. These amounts are also included in the auditor's comments.

Camacho said $120,000 is recorded as receivables from construction companies and $64,400 is from the Rota Mayor's Office.

"It is the management's intention to contact all these individuals and once again request payment," he said. The CPA letter will inform these individuals that if payment is not forthcoming, the debt will be written-off and that the write-off will constitute taxable income and will be reported to the Division of Revenue and Taxation.

"Many of these amounts are decades-old and management is not willing to speculate on why or how these amounts remained uncollected. However, the board must be reassured that the current management will vigorously pursue all amounts owed to CPA," Camacho told the board.

CPA is currently undergoing its financial single audit for Fiscal Year 2008 by Deloitte. The audit is expected to be finished this month and will require a response by CPA to questions and findings of the auditors.

Another audit is being conducted by the Office of Public Auditor.

$1M grant approved for PSS AmeriCorps program

The Public School System was approved a $1 million grant for its AmeriCorps program, with the funding to be spread out across three years. This translates to $343,385 in yearly assistance for the program.

According to PSS-AmeriCorps program director Geri Willis, she needs to write a continuation grant every year as required by the granting agency.

In a notice to PSS, the Corporation for National and Community Service described the CNMI's AmeriCorps a well-designed program with sharply focused goals and exemplary systems in place for continual improvement.

It said the PSS application demonstrates a deep knowledge of the diversity within the community and the fact that being an AmeriCorps member has become a status symbol among the youth is evidence that they are succeeding in their member development strategy.

"I'm thrilled not only for future AmeriCorps members, but for the entire CNMI community. During the past three years, the CNMI AmeriCorps members and volunteers have made a huge impact, not only in the area of increasing the reading level of students they tutored, but also by providing service-learning activities to meet community needs," Willis told *Saipan Tribune*.

The $1 million new funding for the PSS AmeriCorps program will begin this year.

At the national level, AmeriCorps will support nearly 75,000 positions through regular 2009 funding, plus an additional 13,000 positions funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Most positions will start in the summer and fall.

AmeriCorps members and volunteers have so far served and mentored nearly 5,000 children in the CNMI. Its 60 members throughout the islands volunteered a total of 27,000 hours to serve Kindergarten, elementary and junior high school students in public schools. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

DPW readies drainage cleanup for rainy season

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Works is now preparing to clean out Saipan's drainage system to prevent serious flooding during the rainy season.

DPW Secretary Diego Songsong told *Saipan Tribune* that he had just met with the Division of Roads and Grounds director, during which they discussed preparations for the upcoming rainy season.

Songsong said the director told him they would immediately begin clearing the drainages on the island.

"We just have to prepare for that. We will not wait until the rainy season comes, we've got to do it now," Songsong said.

The rainy season in the CNMI usually begins mid-June.

Songsong said DPW is actually currently doing some drainage cleanup activities, but that at this stage the department will be focusing on the unclogging operation so there will be no serious flooding problem once the rainy season comes.

Songsong said he will make sure that they have enough fuel for this cleanup project.

As for the perennial water runoff problem near the Shell gas station in Dandan, he said there is already a design to improve the drainage in the area but funding remains a problem.

He said the proposed improvement project will be done at the upper section of Dandan and will start at the Kannat Tabla Road.

Songsong said they are hoping to use the federal stimulus money for this project.

"By doing the immediate drainage improvement, it will alleviate the flooding in the area of Dandan Shell gas station area. We have the design already, it is just a matter of funds," he added.

During heavy or continuous rains, water coming from the Kannat Tabla mountain area would usually overwhelm the drainage in the Dandan Shell gas station area. The heavy water runoff would cause traffic in the area.

Kagman I and San Vicente Elementary School also experience strong water runoff during the rainy season.

Man allegedly breaks into retired doc's home, steals items, car

A man was arrested Sunday after he allegedly burglarized a retired doctor's house in Susupe and took some money, items, and a car.

Arthur R. Rauepi was detained for burglary, theft, and theft of vehicle.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja imposed a $25,000 cash bail for Rauepi's temporary liberty. A bail hearing was set yesterday afternoon.

Detective Christopher Leon Guerrero stated in his report that a responding police officer spotted Rauepi in Kagman III and recovered the victim's vehicle.

Retired Dr. Calistro Cabrera reported to the Department of Public Safety on Sunday at 2:19am that his house had been burglarized and that his car was stolen.

Preliminary investigation showed that Cabrera was awakened by a loud noise at 2:15am. Upon checking, he discovered the burglary.

Among the items stolen were $23 cash, house and car keys, and Cabrera's car.

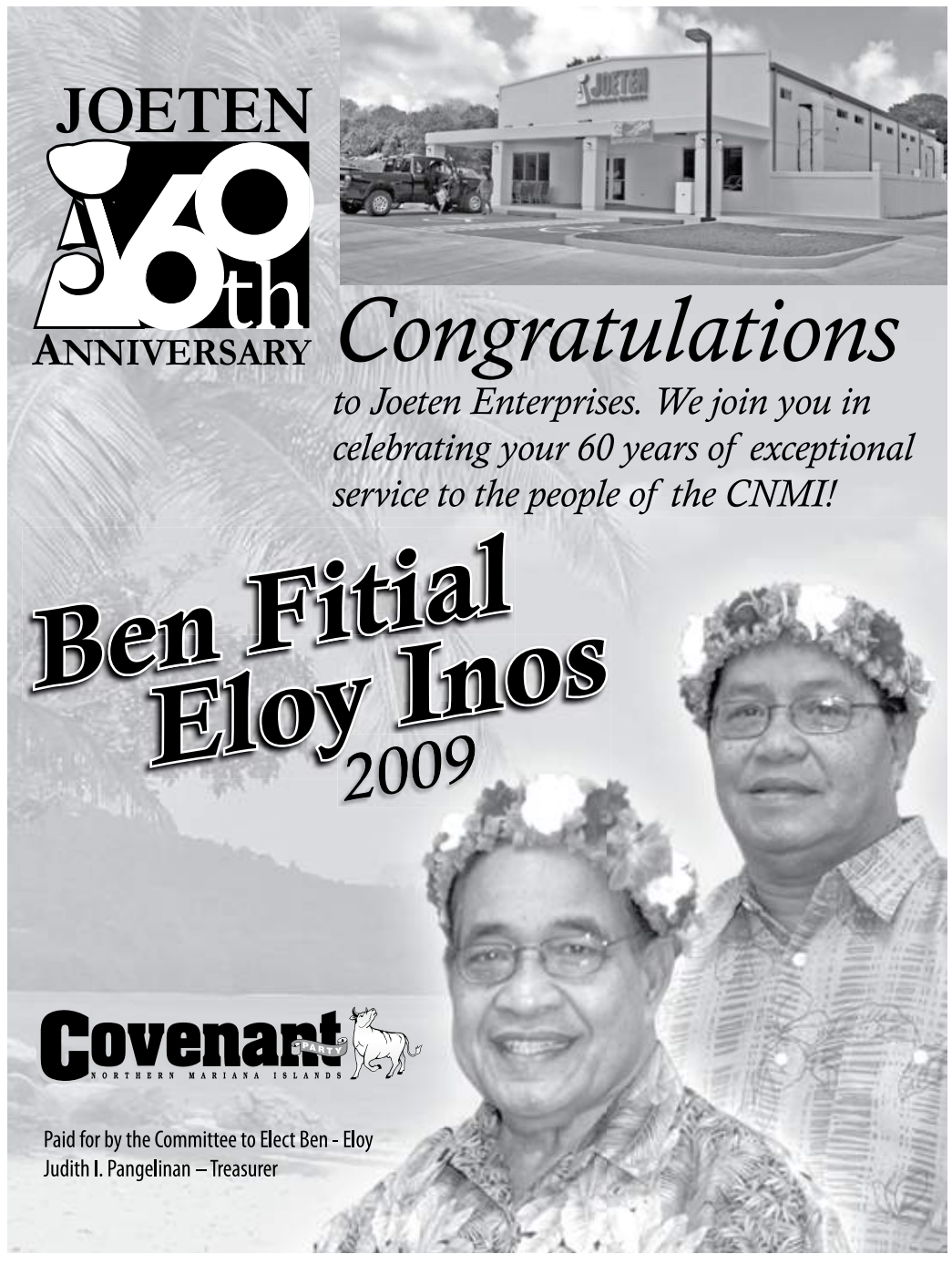
At 2:40am that same day, a police officer spotted Cabrera's car in Kagman III. Rauepi was later arrested.

Detective Leon Guerrero stated that during his interview with Rauepi, the defendant admitted breaking into Cabrera's residence and stealing the car.

Leon Guerrero said Rauepi confessed that he used a knife to pick the door's lock, then entered the house and took the car keys from the top of a chair.

The defendant allegedly admitted stealing $10 cash and a pack of cigarette from the vehicle that he drove to his house in Kagman III.

The detective said Rauepi claimed he was on his way home when a police officer pulled over the vehicle in Kagman. ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***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Shell follows Mobil, hikes fuel prices

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shell Marianas began charging its customers new fuel rates beginning 10pm Monday, following a new round of increase from Mobil earlier in the morning on the same day.

Both oil companies increased their fuel prices by 15 percent.

This brought the total increase to 30 cents in a span of 15 days following the 15-cent price hike Shell and Mobil implemented just half a month ago.

The price for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline at all Shell service stations went up from $3.12 a gallon to $3.27, similar to that of Mobil.

For premium unleaded gasoline, Shell's price increased from $3.42 to $3.57, also the same rate that Mobil is charging its customers.

The price of diesel also went up from $3.29 to $3.44 per gallon at Shell and Mobil stations.

The increase in domestic prices of fuel is attributed to the continuing hike in the world market, which went up to its highest level of the year of up to $66 a barrel.

Former Air Force JAG, ex-New Jersey prosecutor join the OAG

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former judge advocate general of the U.S. Air Force and a former prosecutor from New Jersey have joined the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division.

Matthew Mayer and Brian Gallagher were sworn in as assistant attorneys general before associate justice Alexandro Castro yesterday in the CNMI Supreme Court.

Mayer and Gallagher join five other prosecutors at the OAG's Criminal Division. Another prosecutor is expected to join the division in a couple of weeks. Kevin Lynch is the chief prosecutor

"I'm excited to be here. It's a different kind of place from where I came from, Utah. So far, I love the people I'd met. I love the office," said Mayer.

As a former judge advocate general, Mayer served as a criminal prosecutor in the U.S. Air Force. He found his current position via an Internet search.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Associate justice Alexandro Castro, right, swears in Matthew Mayer, left, and Brian Gallagher at the CNMI Supreme Court yesterday. The new prosecutors will join the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division.

Mayer looks forward to working at the OAG, which he believes will be "challenging."

Gallagher, a former New Jersey prosecutor, is similarly excited about the work he will be doing at the Office of the Attorney General.

"I am very impressed with the work that people here do. They are a very dedicated staff [and] very professional staff. And I think they do good work and I am honored and flattered to be part of it," he said.

Gallagher arrived on the island a few weeks ago. He is now handling general criminal cases such as homicide, sexual assault, and armed robbery.

Gallagher came across a posting on the Internet that the CNMI is looking for someone to join the OAG as a criminal prosecutor.

"So far I love the island. It's taking me a while to get used to the time change because it is 15 hours ahead of New Jersey. It's a beautiful island," he said.

'No entity receiving taxpayers' money is above the law'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres is disappointed with Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez after the college official rejected the lawmaker's request for copies of some documents.

Fernandez told Torres in a letter dated May 18 that the documents are not covered under the Open Government Act and not for public disclosure.

The OGA requires public agencies to make public records available for inspection, but does not require agencies to create such documents.

Torres

Fernandez

Torres had earlier asked NMC for information relating to employment settlements at the college, including the nature of the claim against NMC, amounts paid or agreed to be paid in the settlement agreement, the sources of funds used in paying for them, and the dates the claims were settled or for which the amount was paid.

It was earlier reported that NMC had settled several cases filed by some former employees in exchange for large sums.

"The documents you have requested, which include employment records, would also be exempt from public disclosure under the law, as they would involve personal information in files maintained for employees…other than names, present and past titles, grades, salaries, and duty stations," Fernandez told the lawmaker.

The college president said the documents Torres is asking for are "clearly protected under the law and NMC declines to release any such documents and to violate the confidentiality of any agreements."

Fernandez said any action by the lawmaker to bring the issue to court would be unwarranted.

"We ask that you reconsider such threats," Fernandez added.

Yesterday, Torres in a statement, said that Fernandez will respond whether she likes it or not.

"No public entity or agency receiving public money is above the law. NMC and Dr. Fernandez are not immune to the disclosure of public records and should disclose all public records when requested by any person," he said.

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4 CNMI students win full scholarships under JSA program

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of Insular Affairs on Saipan named yesterday the four winners of full scholarships to the 2009 Junior Statesmen Summer School program of the Department of the Interior.

Hazel Marie Doctor, Ryan Ortizo, Gino Benavente, and Denn Manglona were awarded full scholarships amounting to about $4,000, including round-trip transportation to the university of their choice.

OIA field representative Jeff Schorr met with three of the four winners—Doctor, Ortizo and Benavente—during a get-together yesterday afternoon at the Bobby's Cadillac in Garapan. Manglona could not make it because she is on Rota.

Both Doctor and Ortiza are from Mt. Carmel School while Benavente is from Marianas Baptist Academy.

This will be the 17th year that OIA is extending the JSA program to the insular areas—the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"We're very proud to be able to award the scholarships to the crème of the crème of the Commonwealth high school students who have applied," said Schorr.

A total of 23 students in the Commonwealth were accepted into the JSA program this year but only four of them were awarded full scholarships.

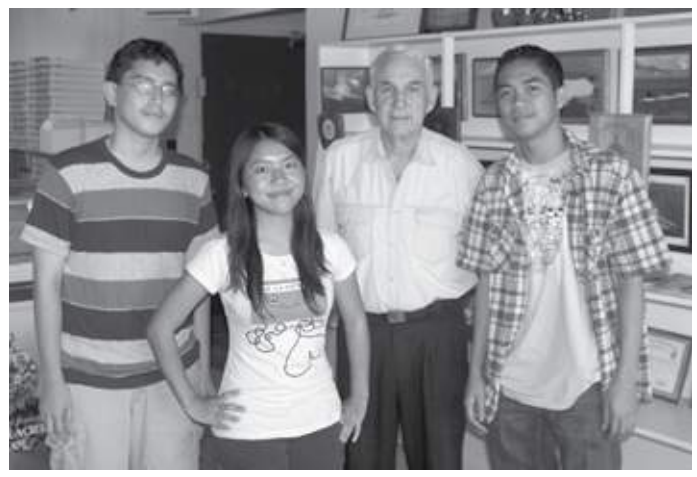
Doctor, who is taking up Advanced Placement in Comparative Government and Speech Communications, will be joining the Princeton University's Summer School while Manglona will attend Georgetown University.

Ortizo and Benavente, who are studying Advanced Placement in U.S. Government, will be attending summer school at Stanford University.

The other students from the CNMI who were accepted to the 2009 summer schools under the JSA program are Heartim Williams, Bianca Blanco, Tyler Yoshimoto, Joseph Kumagai, Jessie Savellano, Czarina Isabel Jucutan, Savana Manglona, Miki Nadia Dela Cruz, Jessel Mesa, James Camacho, Frances Lara Lleva and Marisa Untalan for Standford; Jacqueline Crisostomo for Yale; Roland Arii, Maria Balajadia, Luella Orlando, Elsiana Taitano for Princeton; and Raena Cing for Georgetown.

"We're overjoyed at this kind of opportunity. It's really a great honor for me to be selected from the many students who applied," Doctor said.

Ortizo and Benavente vowed to do their best to prove that they really deserve the scholarships.



Three of the four students from the CNMI who were given scholarships to attend the Junior Statesmen Summer program pose with Jeff Schorr of the Office of Insular Affairs, second from right, during the formal announcement yesterday at Bobby's Cadillac in Garapan. From left are Gino Benavente of Marianas Baptist Academy, Hazel Marie Doctor and Ryan Ortizo of Mt. Carmel.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Birthday greetings going out to Heartim Williams who is celebrating his birthday today, June 3, 2009! Greetings coming from your family, friends, and the entire MHS Dolphin Battalion.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to a dear auntie, Trisha Tomokane! I love and miss you very much! Love always, Chariane Patrish Cabrera Dabney.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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MELL SENOKO	022E	5/23 Sat	5/21 Thu	5/21 Thu	5/19 Tue	5/16 Sat	5/29 Fri	5/25 Mon	5/24 Sun	5/17 Sun	5/17 Sun	5/25 Mon	5/29 Fri	5/31 Sun	6/2 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	021E	5/30 Sat	5/28 Thu	5/28 Thu	5/26 Tue	5/23 Sat	6/5 Fri	6/1 Mon	5/31 Sun	5/24 Sun	5/24 Sun	6/1 Mon	6/5 Fri	6/7 Sun	6/9 Tue
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Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
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OAG urged to investigate 2 alien workers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has recommended that the Office of the Attorney General investigate two alien workers who operated an auto repair shop on Saipan for possible criminal activities.

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Herbert D. Soll found out that the defunct An Da Corp. was the front that allowed Feng Kangni and Li Yuanfu to run their own business without the proper permit to conduct business as foreign nationals.

Soll permanently disqualified Kangni and Yuanfu from employment in the CNMI. He recommended the submission of their names to the OAG for criminal investigation and for deportation if they are still in the Commonwealth.

The hearing officer sanctioned Kangni and Yuanfu to each pay $2,000 their gross violations of the Nonresident Workers Act and the labor reform law.

Soll also disqualified two resident respondents—Jinglu Cabrera and Frank Edboi—from employing alien workers in the CNMI for a period of two years.

The four—An Da International Corp., Kangni, Yuanfu, and Edboi—were found to jointly owe Edilberto Alvaro $2,032.50.

Soll allowed Alvaro to transfer to a new employer by registering with Labor Employment Services within 10 days. The worker will then be given 30 days to find a suitable employer.

Since the corporation has been shown to be defunct and its management was out of compliance with laws and regulations, Soll said any permits in the possession of former employees are revoked.

Alvaro worked for the An Da International Corp. as an auto body repairman pursuant to a contract submitted to Labor.

Alvaro was not paid for a portion of his work for several reasons, such as mismanagement by the employer and illegal activities by some employees.

Alvaro proved that he was not paid $746.25 for work performed through June 21, 2008. Additionally, the shop was closed when his supervisor was charged with crimes stemming from business activities.

In his order, Soll said there is no suggestion that Alvaro was involved in those activities and that he is entitled to expected wages through August 2008.

Soll said Alvaro's unprovided work resulting from his sudden and unexpected layoff amounts to $1,286.25.

He said Alvaro is found to be faultless in this situation of corporate failure and is entitled to transfer relief.

Kangni on the other hand, was a nonresident worker for more than 10 years.

Soll said either a difficulty in finding new employment or a compelling entrepreneurship caused Kangni to manipulate the system to give her de facto ownership interest in the An Da International Corp.

Soll said Kangni accomplished this by using citizens to form An Da and became an employee of the corporation. Kangni ran An Da as though she was the owner of the business, although her status as a nonresident worker would not allow her to have ownership of a business in the CNMI.

Yuanfu collaborated with Kangni to assume ownership of the auto repair shop, Soll said, with Yuanfu assuming the position of a person authorized to conduct a business in the Commonwealth.

Soll said the evidence supports Labor's contention that local residents Jinglu Cabrera, Frank Edboi and Jiang Yuping Angui engaged in practices that allowed Yuanfu and Kangni to maintain An Da Corp.

The three local residents claimed that this was an unwitting advantage taken of them by Yuanfu and Kangni.

"It appears that there was no material financial gain by any of the three residents and that they may have been innocent of any willful wrongdoing," Soll said.

Nevertheless, he added, the three have a responsibility to understand the legal implications of their actions.

Soll also reported to the OAG a notary public who allegedly misused her notary seal by notarizing documents when the signatory was not present and another person who complicated matters by advancing these tainted documents.

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Request for Public Comments

Date: June 1, 2009
Contact: Representative Joseph C. Reyes
Telephone: (670) 664-8836
Facsimile: (670) 664-8838

The House Standing Committee on Commerce and Tourism would like to solicit comments from the general public on House Bill 16-248 "To repeal and reenact 4 CMC § 1301 (A); and for other purposes". Copies of the legislation may be obtained from the following places:

1. Request to the Office of Representative Joseph C. Reyes
2. It may be viewed at **www.camachocnmi.com** under Legislative Bills, H.B. 16-248
3. Request for digital copy via email to **rep.jcreyes@gmail.com**

Members of the general public are encouraged to submit written testimony on or before June 15, 2009. To submit written testimony, please drop-off or fax to the Office of Representative Joseph C. Reyes (664-8838) or may be mailed to P.O. Box 500586 Saipan, MP 96950. You can also submit your digital copies to **rep.jcreyes@gmail.com.**

For additional information, you may contact the Office of Representative Joseph C. Reyes.

Rep. Joseph C. Reyes
Chairman

Lack of maintenance at veterans' cemetery scored

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Frank Cepeda expressed disappointment about the lack of maintenance at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

Cepeda, himself a war veteran, said there is not even a toilet within the area.

He complained that no one seems to have been assigned to mow the grass, comparing the cemetery to the well-maintained veterans' cemetery in Hawaii.

"In Hawaii, you could see the grass like a carpet in your room. Why can't we do that here?" Cepeda asked.

He blamed poor leadership for the state of the Marpi site.

"We could have a similar facility like Hawaii if we only have the right leadership. Leadership does not mean budget. We really need an effective government," he said.

Veterans and Military Affairs executive director Ruth Coleman explained that the toilet and maintenance were not included in the $1.7 million that was initially budgeted for the project.

Coleman said there is a plan to request for additional funding from the federal government to expand the project in the next 20-25 years.

She said the maintenance of the Hawaii cemetery is fully funded by the state government as a shrine.

It was in 2006 that the first war veteran, Ret. Marine Scout Gregorio Cabrera, was buried at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

Since then, the total number of CNMI war heroes buried there stands at 17.

Fishermen's group cleans up Fishing Base

Members of the Saipan Fishermen's Association and volunteers took part in the May 23, 2009, beach cleanup at the Garapan Fishing Base Complex. The group yielded fewer bags of trash and were surprised to find less trash than previous months. The beach cleanup was coordinated by the Saipan Fishermen's Association, in part with the Division of Environmental Quality's Monthly Brigade Activity.

This collaborative cleanup activity demonstrates the Association's commitment to the protection and enhancement of the Commonwealth's fragile island ecosystem and environment, the group said in a statement.

According to SFA member Karrie Fernandez, who is spearheading the project, they intend to increase the number of participants in future cleanups.

"The SFA is committed to preserving the environment, and this is one way in which we can protect our ocean. We chose the site, the Garapan Fishing Base Complex, to clean up because it is located right next to the dock, where oftentimes trash and debris pile up," said Fernandez.

The cleanup is also in part with the DEQ & MVA's Tourism Month event supporting the beautification efforts in preparation for the Golden Week. An appreciation barbecue for the members and volunteers was held after the cleanup. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 3, 1999

DOLI slams INS

Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares yesterday assailed the federal government for its hypocrisy in using the CNMI immigration laws when it transferred the illegal Chinese immigrants from Guam to Tinian to make sure that they cannot seek political asylum. The US Immigration and Naturalization Service had claimed that overcrowding in the Hagatna Department of Corrections had forced them to divert to Tinian boatloads of Chinese illegals believed to be victims of human smuggling. Many of these illegals pay as much as $5,000 to be able to enter the neighboring island. However, Zachares said this is far from the truth. "The only reason that they used Tinian was for diversion, to utilize our immigration laws here so that they would not be obligated to provide asylum," he told members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Teno reports to the Commonwealth

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio delivers today his State of the Commonwealth address that will sum up the accomplishment of his administration and spell out future actions he will undertake to deal with the continuing economic decline and worsening ties with the United States. However, Tenorio, who is serving almost halfway of his four-year term, says he sees tougher times ahead because of the worsening economic condition in the Northern Marianas. "This is the worst in the history of the commonwealth," the governor said in an interview. "The economy is really in bad shape."

June 3, 2002

Supreme Court reinstates Fennell

Supreme Court Associate Justice Alexandro C. Castro reinstated Randall T. Fennell as Bank of Saipan receiver late Friday, superseding a lower court order, entered earlier on the same day, which officially discharged Fennell from the bank's receivership. Castro, in a two-page order, stayed his May 29 order following the reconsideration hearing slated Friday morning, when attorneys for the Acting Commerce Secretary and the receiver urged the court to set aside the decision. The stay will be lifted automatically upon the appointment of a new receiver by the Superior Court, Castro ruled.

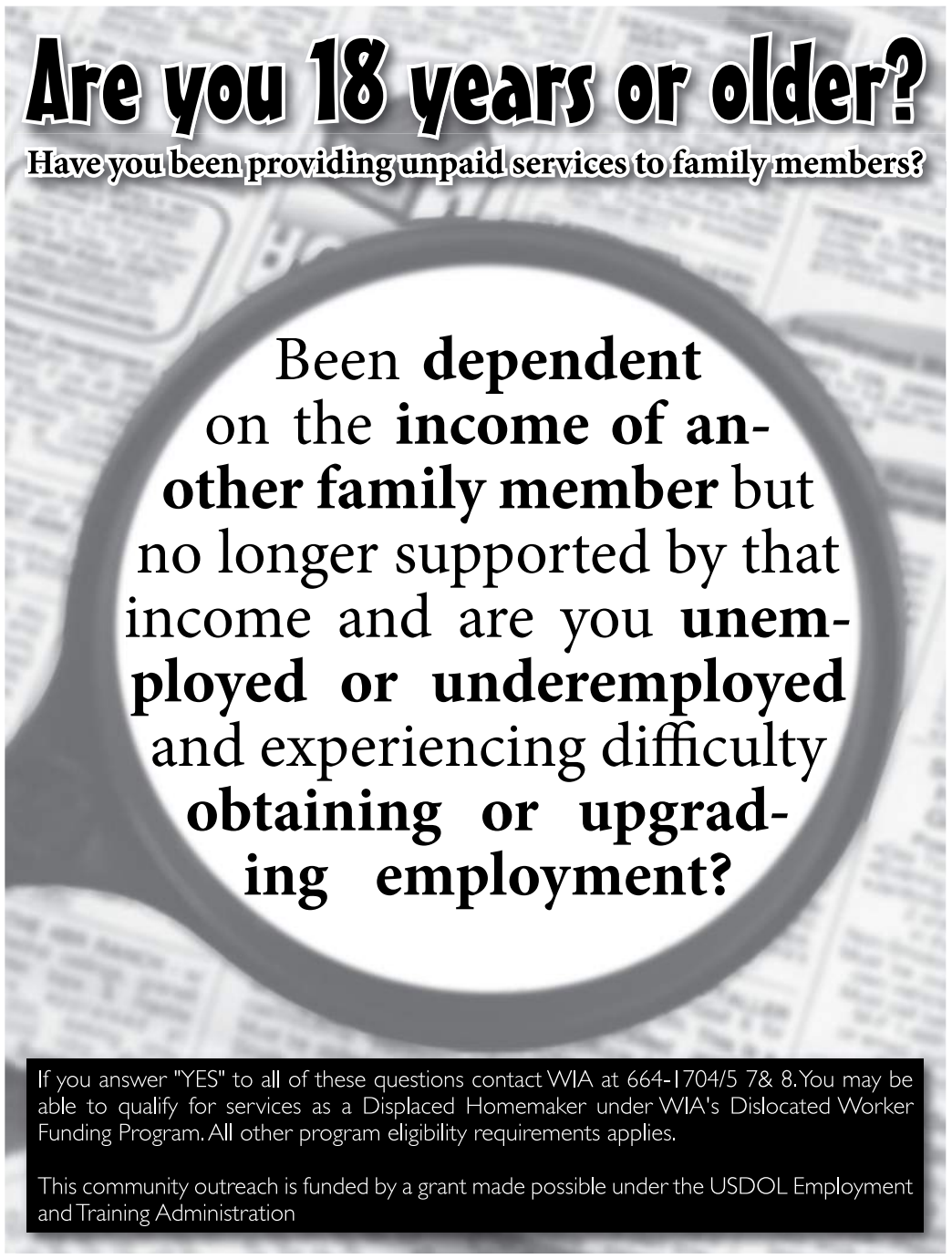
Making NMI more visitor- and investor-friendly

With the goal of hammering out an entry policy that is visitor-friendly and a labor policy that is investor-friendly, CNMI officials sat down Saturday with consular officials from four countries to discuss ways of making the Commonwealth more attractive as a tourist site and investment destination. Diplomatic officials from Japan, the Philippines, South Korea and Palau, as well as representatives from the private sector, engaged Gov. Juan N. Babauta and his Cabinet members in a free-wheeling discussion that ranged from the minimum wage and entry requirements, to opening up the Commonwealth to Asian students who want to take the U.S. nursing and CPA licensure examinations. Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, who flew in from Washington D.C. to attend the conference, reported that a new minimum wage bill that applies to the CNMI has been filed in the U.S. House of Representatives, while a similar version is set to be introduced in the Senate. The House version would raise the CNMI's current minimum wage level from $3.05 an hour to $6.05 an hour within a three-year period.

June 3, 2003

House to Senate: Changes reflect greediness

In what appeared to be an edgy ping-pong match, the House of Representatives yesterday tossed the Commonwealth prison project financing bill back to the Senate's court, only partially agreeing to the upper house's amendments to the legislative measure that has been in limbo for months. In approving another modified version of House Bill 13-287, the House rejected the Senate's bid to increase the public debt for the prison completion from $15 million to $19 million, but agreed to the $2 million appropriation for the Rota and Tinian dialysis centers The Senate on Friday inserted changes to HB 13-287, which sought $4 million more for Tinian's public health capital improvement projects and Rota's airport expansion project, on top of the $2 million allotment for the dialysis centers.


Are you 18 years or older?
Have you been providing unpaid services to family members?
Been dependent on the income of another family member but no longer supported by that income and are you unemployed or underemployed and experiencing difficulty obtaining or upgrading employment?
If you answer "YES" to all of these questions contact WIA at 664-1704/5 7& 8. You may be able to qualify for services as a Displaced Homemaker under WIA's Dislocated Worker Funding Program. All other program eligibility requirements applies.
This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES
BOARD VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board of Directors for the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) wishes to announce two board vacancies for representatives from the island of Saipan.

The Council is a non-profit private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Raising funds and recruiting community partners;
- Providing input from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the NMI Council for the Humanities.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950** or may be delivered to the NMI Council for the Humanities office, located at the Kings Plaza Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan. All letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 12, 2009. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at http://nmihumanities.org.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

ADDENDUM NO.2
June 1, 2009

DPW09-IFB-011
CONSTRUCTION OF ROUTE 31 CROSS ISLAND ROAD
IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE 1, SAIPAN
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. CM-NH-0031(013)

1. **General:** The following revisions, additions, corrections, and/or clarifications to the specifications and drawings shall apply to the work affected thereby. Careful note of this Addendum shall be taken by the bidder/contractor, and all trades affected shall be fully advised of the information contained herein. In the event of a conflict between drawings, specifications and this Addendum, the contents of this Addendum shall govern. All further conflicts in the work resulting from, or caused by, the contents of this Addendum must be brought to the attention of the Contracting Officer for resolution. **Failure to acknowledge this bid Addendum in accordance with instructions may subject your bid to rejection on the affected item(s)/service(s).**

2. **Pre-Bid Conference:** Will be held on June 5, 2009, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, Gualo Office.

3. **All questions:** All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on June 12, 2009 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

4. **Sealed bids:** must be marked **"DPW09-IFB-011"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. June 26, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time June 26, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-Mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 26, 2009, and must be received no later than July 7, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

5. **Bid Opening:** Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, July 10, 2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on July 1, 2009

All other requirements of the Invitation for Bids of the project package shall remain as stated.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-019

PUERTO RICO DUMP FINAL CLOSURE SAIPAN, MP

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Division of Solid Waste Management, are soliciting sealed Bids for construction, of the Puerto Rico Dump closure system, on the island of Saipan.

The project package will be available on or after May 27, 2009, at Pacific Quick Print & Post, Chalan Pale Arnold, SAipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, amount to be determined, is required for each set. All interested bidders are also required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid package. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7 "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 **is not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and serivices on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage as required by CNMI and Federal Law.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on June 5, 2009, 10:0 a.m. local time at the Solid Waste Management Division's Lower Base Transfer Station, Lower Base.. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site and condition of the project. All questions regarding the project must be submitted in writing no later than June 10, 2009 to **Mr. Blas T. Mafnas,** Acting Director, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, or fax to (670) 322-2762.

Sealed bids shall be marked with the name of the submitter and the title "**Puerto Rico Dump Final Closure, DPW-09-IFB-019"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and six (6) copies of Bids must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, June 22, 2009 to the Director of Procurement and Supply, P.O. Box 10008, Cnmi, Saipan, MP 96950. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than June 22, 2009 and must be transmitted via Facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or va e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and six (6) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 22, 2009, and must be received no later than July 1, 2009. Failure to submit the required number of sets may be gount for rejection.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, July 2, 2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on June 22, 2009.

A bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Clerk or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". For Bid Bonds, surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of the Treasury as an acceptable surety to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment Bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of the Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI.

Performance time for completion of the project is three hundred sixty five **(365)** working days upon issuance of official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will assessed as provided for in the Bid Specification Package.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/OIA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval of DOI/OIA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement and Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Keeping an eye on 'sexting'

Let's talk about "sexting." It's the practice of teenagers, usually girls, sending nude or semi-nude photos of themselves, often to boys, usually by cellphone. And it's common: 20 percent of teens participating in a survey by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy had either sent or posted nude pictures of themselves.

Those for whom this trend is news might be wondering: Whatever happened to streaking? Or mooning? Or skinny-dipping? If the pranks and peccadilloes of previous generations seem more innocent, they certainly were less fraught with life-altering consequences.

Today's kids are learning the hard way that the digital age has created a mass audience for every ill-judged tap of the "send" button. Boys used to kiss and tell, and a girl would get a "reputation." Now girls reveal and boys show and tell, leading to public humiliation and far worse.

Take the heartbreaking case of Jessica Logan, an 18-year-old Ohio teen who sent nude photos of herself to her boyfriend. After they broke up, he forwarded the pictures to hundreds of other high school girls, and Jessica was harassed relentlessly. Last July, she hanged herself in her closet, her cellphone on the floor nearby.

Forwarding nude pictures isn't just cruel. It can be illegal if the pictures are of children under age 18, as schools and parents across the country have learned when prosecutors became involved. But doing something about sexting begins with disagreement about what precisely to consider it. Is it child pornography? An exercise of free speech? A school disciplinary matter? The parents' responsibility? Logan's mother is fighting for a national School and Family Education About the Internet Act (SAFE Internet), which would provide funding for new and existing Internet-safety programs for children, parents and educators. That's one approach. Another, being debated in Ohio, is to reduce penalties for sexting teenagers to those of a first-degree misdemeanor, sensibly distinguishing between an act of juvenile irresponsibility and one of depraved distribution of child pornography.

By sexting, to quote one expert, teens are giving themselves "cyber tattoos" for life. So although it may be necessary to bring charges in the most egregious cases, that shouldn't be the rule. Education and attentive parenting will go further toward addressing this worrisome trend than new laws and tough prosecutions.

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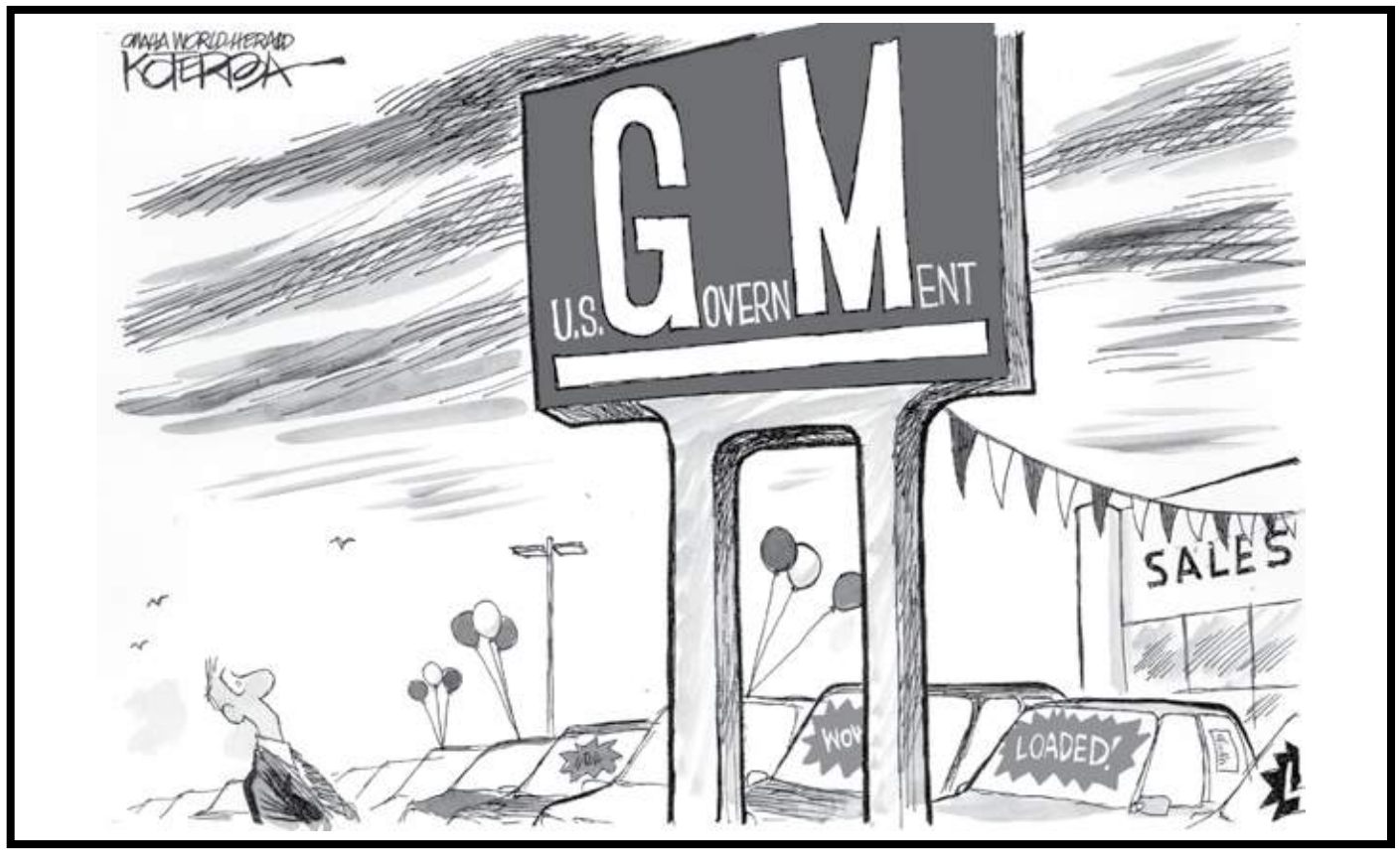


State of the Commonwealth Address

Editor's Note: The following is the text of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's State of the Commonwealth Address, which he delivered on May 27, 2009, at the House of Representatives' chamber on Capital Hill.

Second of a five-part series

By BENIGNO R. FITIAL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Let me be perfectly clear about our previous government pension system: Our Retirement Fund's Defined Benefit Plan crisis took many years to develop. It was a financially untenable system that was way too generous, that promised benefits that exceeded our government's ability to pay, and that could not possibly be sustained with falling revenues. Over the years, benefits were increased without regard as to how much these new benefits would cost or how they were to be funded. With new benefits came an ever increasing liability. More money was needed to pay for the new benefits.

According to the Retirement Fund's own actuarial report, the liability of the Defined Benefit Plan Program grew from $809 million as of October 1, 2000 to $1.007 billion as of 1 October 2005. With decreasing government revenues, the Retirement Fund obligation would demand a greater portion of government resources and take away needed funding for essential public services. Reforms were needed to reduce the liability to the Defined Benefit Plan and still provide a reasonable pension plan for our government employees.

Thinking outside the box, we embarked on a plan to replace the Defined Benefit plan as the government employee retirement plan and reform it. In June of 2006, we replaced the costly Defined Benefit Plan with the Defined Contribution Plan. The Defined Contribution Plan fixed the Government's employer contribution rate to 4%. We went from having to pay nearly 40 percent in retirement benefits to four percent—a substantial government savings providing major budgetary relief.

In 2007, PL 15-70 was passed to reform the Defined Benefit Plan. Again referring to Retirement Fund's own actuarial report, as a result of PL 15-70 reforms and the new Defined Contribution Plan, which closed the door to new membership in the Defined Benefit Plan, the liability decreased from $1.007 billion as of 1 October 2005 to $879.3 million as of 1 October 2007.

Furthermore, despite limited employer contributions through September 30, 2007, the Fund reported a funded liability of 58 percent, with $510 million in assets to fund $879 million in liabilities. The 58 percent funded percentage is the highest funding percentage of the liability in the past ten years.

Our reform efforts, however, were dampened by the severe market downturn in 2008, and more needs to be done to save the fund. I urge the Legislature to quickly pass an omnibus reform bill to protect the Retirement Fund. Representatives of the Legislature, the Fund, and my administration have been engaged in a Working Group to push badly needed legislation to cut the Fund's losses. I urge swift action on these reforms, including the adoption of a legislative initiative to authorize a pension obligation bond with voter approval. I am ready to sign these reforms into law to protect our retirees.

But the DC plan and the DB plan reforms alone will not save the Fund. We still need to do more. We need new sources of revenues to bolster the Fund. The fund's lawsuit squanders precious government resources and will not produce money for the Fund. We all need to work together to find solutions to protect the fund, with cooperation rather than confrontation. I urge all parties to suspend litigation and engage in good faith mediation to resolve these issues. Ultimately, we need to grow the economy to offer more resources for retirees.

In dealing with our budget challenge, we were greatly assisted by the release of close to $50 million in federal cover over funds, which enabled us to reduce our deficit and pay tax refunds and rebates, stimulating our local economy. I thank Lt. Governor Eloy Inos for leading this effort. In this case, we made the right decision to abandon the previous administration's lawsuit against the federal government and successfully negotiate a settlement with the U.S. government.

Let me add here that this Administration expects to continue paying tax refunds and rebates on time. The next payment will be made in about three weeks.

Our budget challenge has not eased up, however. We have recently received notification of a very substantial reduction in federal compact impact funding and we need to address this major shortfall. Compact Impact funding for fiscal year 2010 will be reduced by 62 percent—from $5 million to less than $2 million. Moody's Investor Service recently downgraded our bond rating because we failed to pass a timely budget for the current fiscal year. The budget was passed five months into the fiscal year and the budget was achieved through a legislative override. More importantly, the budget was passed without the necessary austerity measures to cope with dwindling government collections. I again take this opportunity to call on the Legislature to pass needed austerity holidays to deal with our current budget challenge.

Despite our ongoing budget difficulties, I am proud of the unprecedented personnel cost reductions we have achieved. We have imposed austerity holidays on contractual employees and we have achieved the leanest government in more than a decade. According to the Department of Finance's payroll records, in the pay period of January 21, 2006, we had 1,810 employees under the Executive Branch. As of March 24 of this year, we now had 1,563 employees. This represents a reduction of 247 employees, or about 13.5 percent.

Although we have fewer employees and lower payroll costs, I am constantly amazed by the perpetual mass hiring myth. By economic necessity, we have gone from an operating budget of $213 million to a budget of less than $160 million today, with personnel costs representing the bulk of our budget.

To be continued.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Taken to its illogical extreme

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Let's conduct a little thought experiment, shall we? Using life here on Saipan as a model, let's think about how things might change if the economy continues its trends—taking things to a somewhat illogical extreme—just as an experiment, mind you.

We know the trends. As factories close, jobs disappear, unemployment increases both here and around the world, let's ask ourselves how—if these trends continued to their illogical extreme—yes, how would we survive?

Think about it. I mean *really* think about it. Let's suppose that ALL the businesses on island closed. Imports ceased, causing every business that relied on stuff from the outside to shut down. There were no more tourists. Everyone lost their jobs. There were no supermarkets to buy the things you've gotten accustomed to. No toilet paper. No canned goods. No frozen vegetables. No TV dinners. No gas stations. No clothing stores. No bars relying on imported alcohol and sodas!

In addition, you couldn't leave the island, and starting tomorrow morning, therefore, you would face the challenge of living without a few of your familiar crutches. The question is: How would you survive?

Now, taken to its true illogical extreme, the scenario in an experiment like this might attain massive proportions, affecting every aspect of our lives, and might spell the end of civilization as we know it. So, let's put a few restrictions in place.

First, let's agree, just for our experiment, on the following:

1. Let's assume that people would not resort to stealing what they needed.
2. You haven't stored anything (no gas, no cash, no foodstuffs), so you are starting completely from scratch on the morning of the experiment.
3. You still have electricity and running water (at least for now), and
4. You will be allowed to live, rent-free in the property you now occupy.

With that in place, when you wake up tomorrow, what would your day look like? What would you do first? How would you feed yourself and your family? How would you clean your clothes? With no money in your wallet or bank account, nothing in the refrigerator or cupboard, and nothing in cans, boxes or bottles available for purchase islandwide, what would you eat for breakfast, lunch, dinner? With no gasoline for your car, how would you get around? Think seriously about how having no stores available would affect your current lifestyle. Have you become the ideal consumer?

Everyone's lifestyle and habits are different, so the list of changes in your life are bound to be different than mine. However, here are some of the things I've thought about (along with some important questions) by taking things to their illogical extreme:

■ **A new class would emerge:** Power would shift. People would recognize the need to control their food supply more directly. Those who were not so inclined would be at the mercy of those who did. So, who would become more important in this new terrain? I suggest that those who had food growing on their land and/or those who knew how to grow food would become more important and more valued in the new paradigm.

■ **New skill sets would emerge:** Additionally, people who had basic survival skills for the new paradigm would become more valued.

With no new cars, boats or appliances to purchase, people who could fix things would also become more valued.

In phase II*, people who knew how to prepare food naturally, and/or without electricity would become more valued.

People who knew how to stay healthy given the absence of imported medicine would become more important.

People would walk or use bicycles for transportation.

■ **A new market and lifestyle might emerge:** People would still trade, but they would trade in the things that are of utmost importance. At the very basic level, people would still need food. Here on Saipan, with no stores to get frozen dinners, canned goods and bottled drinks and sodas, people would have to eat what was available locally, and trade what they had for things that they really needed.

■ **A new currency might develop:** Economists might disagree, but eventually, money would have no value. (Of course, there are those who argue it has no value even now). But think about it: What good would a stash of hundred dollar bills do you if there was nowhere to spend it? Similar to what happens in prisons where the inmate population is cut off from the wider population whose agreement and consensus gives money its value, other things become the currency.

Things other than money might become more in demand, of greater perceived value, and thus replace money as currency. It wouldn't be hard to conceive that direct labor, light bulbs that last forever, fuses or other hard-to-get items from the outside might take on much higher value in the new paradigm. *(We would have more options than inmates in prison, since we would have access to more raw materials with which to fashion things of true value)*

Therefore

This is just the tip of the iceberg of any "what happens if…" discussion which takes things to their illogical extreme. You can apply it to any observable trend—rising gas prices, decreasing tourist numbers, lessening population, business closures, etc.

The point is this: In the absence of the familiar trappings of society and changes in lifestyle, people, by necessity are forced to adapt and change. Those changes and adaptations are already being acted out to various degrees ranging from minor to extreme. As the trends causing such absences, and deprivations continue, it can be said of this particular experiment (among other consequences) that

People would live simpler lives.
People would live closer to nature.
People would become more self-sufficient.
New skills would become tradable.
Great. Now what do we do with this information?

Will you make the grade?

When I was in high school, our social studies teacher gave us an assignment to describe in detail how we would start a new society on a deserted island, and exactly what would be involved in doing so. We, in effect, had to become project managers having to think about construction costs, supplies, importing lumber, machinery, materials, setting salaries, drainage, electricity, urban planning, schools, and everything else that our 10th grade minds could conceive would be required to start our own little world from scratch.

The highest grades in the assignment went to those who, better than most, could see the bigger picture, recognize the workings of our present world, ask the right questions, plan for every contingency, and execute the best strategy for the seamless transition from non-existence to affluence for our little desert island society.

Now, the purpose of my experiment in today's column is not to forecast doom and gloom, but to harness your creativity, so that you—using the same skills encouraged by my high school assignment—might anticipate change, prepare for different possible scenarios and, most importantly recognize opportunity when it knocks. Will you make the grade?

I think this experiment would make a great class project or even a brainstorming session for enterprising adults. If you decide to conduct such a session, please do invite me!

**p.s. In PHASE II of the experiment, you might remove the availability of electricity from the experiment and see how that affects your ideas for new sources and methods of power generation, air conditioning and refrigeration, health care, and other related aspects of current society.*

■ ■ ■

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

Note: Fans and followers of *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies at Bookseller Bookstore in the Joe-Ten Plaza in Susupe or on Amazon.com. Hurry, there's a limited supply!

Note: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

Letters to the Editor

A violation of law

This morning as I drove south on Beach Road to work, I was startled to see political signs for Ben and Eloy all along the beach side of Beach Road. My astonishment is that Department of Public Land regulations clearly prohibit the installation of political signs on the beach side of Beach Road. When I saw the first sign in Garapan, I didn't give much thought, thinking that it was a small mistake. As I drove down the stretch of Beach Road to PIC, I saw signs and signs of Ben and Eloy planted on the ground on the beach side of Beach Road. My disappointment with Ben and Eloy is that they are both veteran political campaigners and for them to allow their supporters to break our own laws is an insult to the residents and most especially the voters who they are trying to reach out.

My other frustration is with the Department of Public Lands. In the application to install political signs it is clearly mentioned in the prohibited activities. I question if DPL made any effort to ensure that each applicant is aware of the conditions and prohibition. In any sense, clearly the Ben and Eloy signs are violating CNMI laws or regulations. I ask DPL to contact their office and inform them of the violation and to correct its mistake. As for Ben and Eloy, the CNMI residents and voters deserve an apology for such violation. There is no one to blame but yourselves.

Jack Tenorio
Garapan, Saipan

Thank you

Thank you all to all our parents, government and private agencies, businesses, teachers and staff, students, PTA, for all your support in making our 2009 Cultural Day King And Queen Festivities and 10th Year Anniversary a success. Your untiring support to the education of our children is greatly appreciated. To all the parents of the candidates, without your utmost hard work and sacrifices in selling the tickets and doing bake sales, we wouldn't have collected the amount we've collected. To the many individuals not mentioned, from the bottom of our PTA and Dandan Elementary School's staff and administration, thank you. We will be forever be grateful for the partnership and your passion to working closely with the school for our children and making "Students First" your priority.

Jonas Barcinas
Principal, Dandan Elementary School
and the Tottot Family

Apology

I, Rita I. Tarope, would like to take this time to apologize to my family, co-workers, and friends, but most especially to the entire CNMI community for the wrongdoing that I had committed during my employment at Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

I will be serving my sentence this month for my crime. I know that I have broken the law and if only time permits to turn back time, I will give it my best not to do the mistake I have done. I hope upon my release, I will become a more productive citizen. Once again my sincerest and dearest apology to the community, my family, friends, and management and staff of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Rita I. Tarope
Koblerville, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southwest winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southwest winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southwest winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southwest winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southwest winds around 10 mph.
▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°

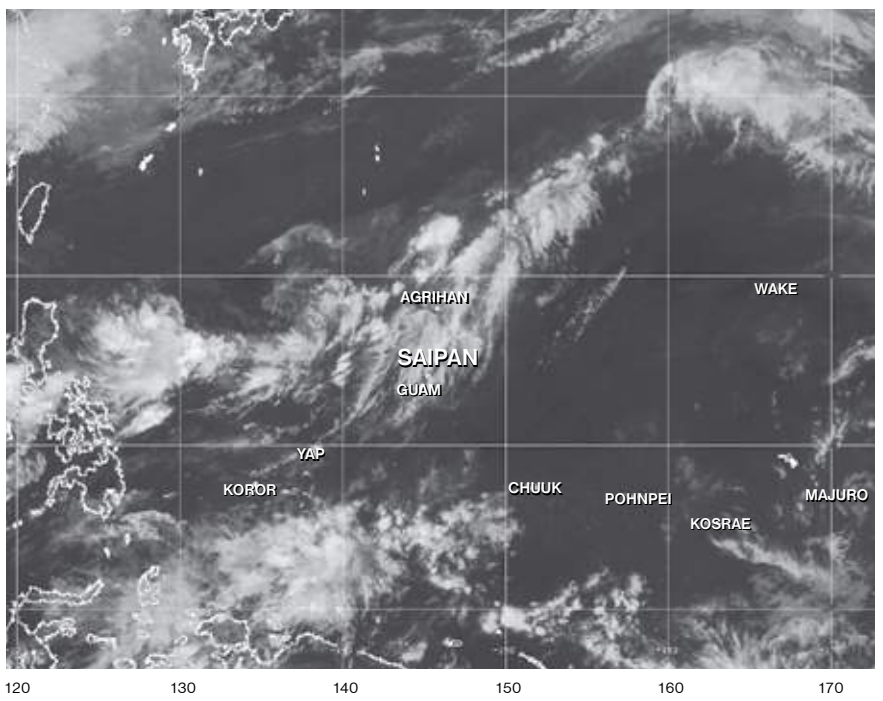
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Rain	▲84	▼77
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼77
Yap	Dreary	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Sunny	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲57	▼42
Beijing	Sunny	▲99	▼64
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲84	▼77
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼74
London	Cloudy	▲68	▼46
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼58
Manila	Rain	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Rain	▲62	▼53
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼74
New York	Thunderstorms	▲80	▼59
Osaka	Showers	▲66	▼61
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲69	▼44
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲75	▼63
Rome	Showers	▲77	▼59
Salem	Cloudy	▲83	▼52
San Francisco	Showers	▲69	▼55
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲77	▼59
Tokyo	Showers	▲70	▼61
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼65

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough runs northeastward from 17N130E to a weak low-level circulation centered near 19N138E to 23N145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between 12N and 16N from 130E to 138E and up to 300 miles southeast of the trough axis east of 138E. This area includes the CNMI. A surface trough southeast of Palau and Yap extends from EQ143E to 3N142E to 10N144E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between the equator and 6N from 133E to 146E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:43 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
10:59 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:34 PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:33 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:52 PM	2:03 AM
Thursday	3:45 PM	2:42 AM
Friday	4:38 PM	3:24 AM
Saturday	5:32 PM	4:09 AM
Sunday	6:25 PM	4:56 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Obama: Nationalization of GM to be short-term

AP

A Chevrolet truck on display at a General Motors dealership in Burlingame, Calif., Monday, June 1, 2009.

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a defining moment for American capitalism, President Barack Obama ushered General Motors Corp. into bankruptcy protection Monday and put the government behind the wheel of the company that once symbolized the nation's economic muscle.

The fallen giant, the largest U.S. industrial company ever to enter bankruptcy, is shedding some 21,000 jobs and 2,600 dealers. Sparing few communities, the retrenchment amounts to one-third of its U.S. work force and 40 percent of its dealerships.

"We are acting as reluctant shareholders because that is the only way to help GM succeed," Obama said of the temporary nationalization of the 100-year-old company.

Obama lauded what he called a "viable, achievable plan that will give this iconic American company a chance to rise again" as GM followed Chrysler LLC into bankruptcy court. Of Detroit's "Big Three" automakers, only Ford Motor Corp. has avoided bankruptcy restructuring and has not taken federal bailout money.

The prepackaged GM bankruptcy deal—crafted by the administration, the company, the United Auto Workers union and a group of bondholders—would give the U.S. government a 60 percent controlling stake in what was once the world's largest automaker. An additional 12.5 percent would be under Canadian government ownership.

"What I have no interest in doing is running GM," Obama said. His only goal, he said, was to get GM back on its feet and then "to get out quickly."

Yet, the U.S. could end up holding the shares for some time.

Neither Obama nor his spokesman offered an indication of how long the government's involvement with GM would last. "I don't know that there is a timeline," said Robert Gibbs, the White House press secretary.

"He has a strong obligation to ensure that there is a management structure in place that is making smart business decisions," Gibbs said. "Is the president going to thumb through engineering reports and each page of the annual report? No."

Steve Rattner, head of the president's auto task force, later told reporters: "We don't have a specific timetable, we don't have a specific deadline."

GM *hoping for speedy sale and exit from Chapter 11*

NEW YORK (AP)—General Motors hopes to follow the lead of fellow U.S. automaker Chrysler by transforming its most profitable assets into a new company in just 30 days and emerging from bankruptcy protection soon after.

But Detroit-based General Motors Corp. is much larger and complex than its Auburn Hills, Mich.-based rival and isn't up against Chrysler LLC's tight June 15 deadline with Fiat.

Sharon Lindstrom, managing director at business consulting firm Protiviti, said the companies pose different challenges. But as with Chrysler, she notes that the Treasury Department made sure many of GM's moving parts were in order ahead of time so a quick bankruptcy reorganization might be possible.

"They had a lot of their ducks in a row because the terms of the government financing forced them to get all the parties to the table in a very, very short period of time," Lindstrom said.

GM nailed down deals with its union and a majority of its bondholders and arranged to sell off most of its Opel operations in Europe in order to appear in court Monday with a near-complete plan to quickly emerge with a chance to become profitable.

The government has said it expects GM to come out of bankruptcy protection within 60 to 90 days. By comparison, the judge overseeing Chrysler's case approved the sale of its assets to a group led by Italy's Fiat Group SpA in just over a month. Some industry observers think Chrysler could emerge as early as this week.

Hopeful signs for economy emerge in latest data

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fresh signs emerged Monday that the recession is letting up.

Manufacturing's slide is slowing. Builders are boosting spending on construction projects—including homes. And consumers aren't cutting back as much as some had feared.

A trio of reports gave Wall Street a big lift on the same day that industrial icon General Motors Corp. filed for bankruptcy protection. The federal government is taking a majority ownership stake in the company, which announced new plant closings.

Investors and economists focused instead on the encouraging news about the economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 221 points, or 2.6 percent. And the Standard & Poor's 500 index and Nasdaq composite reached their highest levels this year.

"What looked like a flicker of light at the end of the tunnel is now starting to look like a beacon," said Richard Yamarone, economist at Argus Research. "We are no longer in the deep throes of recession. A recovery may be just a few months away."

Economists were especially heartened by a report from the Institute for Supply Management that showed U.S. manufacturing activity shrinking at a slower pace in May. Reports from Asia and Europe indicated similar improvements in their manufacturing sectors.

Falling dollar, surging stocks weigh on Treasurys

NEW YORK (AP)—Interest rates surged in the credit markets Monday as economic worries eased and investors dumped U.S. government debt for riskier investments like stocks and commodities.

The jump in rates, which accompanied a plunge in Treasury prices, was mixed news. Falling demand for the safe-haven investments is a welcome sign that investors are setting aside some of their worries about the economy, but it could also drive up interest on mortgages and other loans.

Investors rushed into stocks after getting upbeat economic readings on manufacturing, construction and consumer spending. All the major Wall Street indicators surged more than 2.5 percent, including the Dow Jones industrial average, which ended up 221 points to its best finish since January. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose to its highest level of the year.

Meanwhile, oil rose to $68.58 a barrel, its highest finish since November as investors bet that demand would rise in a recovering economy.

"Now that people are feeling a little bit more aggressive and they're sensing a turn, they're starting to begin to look toward other asset classes" like stocks and commodities that carry more risk, said Michael Cuggino, president and portfolio manager at Pacific Heights Asset Management in San Francisco.

Demand for Treasurys was already waning in recent weeks on concerns about a flood of U.S. government debt coming to the market as Washington finances its massive financial and economic stimulus programs.

Bondholders have earned only modest interest since the recession intensified last fall following the collapse of brokerage Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. The high demand for government IOUs drove down interest rates.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil stays above $68 as investors eye inflation

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices lingered above $68 a barrel Tuesday in Asia after doubling since March on investor expectations that a massive global fiscal stimulus could spark an economic recovery and inflation. Benchmark crude for July delivery was down 25 cents to $68.33 a barrel by midday in Singapore in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Friday, the contract rose $2.27 to settle at $68.58. Investors have been buying commodities, traditionally seen as a hedge against inflation, on worries that this year's huge fiscal and monetary easing around the world could eventually send prices soaring. "There's a lot of concern about inflation, even talk about hyper-inflation down the road," said Christoffer Moltke-Leth, head of sale trading for Saxo Capital Markets in Singapore. "Oil right now is a freight train barreling upward."

SEC watchdog probing possible employee disclosures

WASHINGTON (AP)—A score of pending investigations by the Securities and Exchange Commission's internal watchdog include several involving possible improper disclosure of confidential information by agency employees, including enforcement attorneys, the inspector general says. In his semi-annual report to Congress filed Monday, SEC Inspector General David Kotz outlines several investigations into possible instances of employees' disclosure of nonpublic information in violation of agency regulations. The cases include possible disclosure by an SEC attorney to a large investment bank of a former bank employee's contacts with the agency, possible leaking of information from an SEC database to an FBI agent who was later convicted of fraud, and possible improper disclosures in an unnamed book and to a national news organization.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	3,940.200 Up 52.300 (1.35%)
HONG KONG	18,830.94 Down 57.65 (-0.31%)
JAKARTA	2,034.519 Up 35.9391 (1.80%)
TOKYO	9,709.40 Up 31.65 (0.33%)
K. LUMPUR	1,061.80 Up 17.69 1.69%)
MANILA	2,490.42 Up 31.77 (1.29%)
SINGAPORE	2,389.75 Up 9.68 (0.41%)
SEOUL	1,415.37 Up 0.27 (0.02%)
BANGKOK	581.99 Up 2.01 (0.35%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	8,721.44	221.11
NASDAQ	1,828.68	54.35
S&P	942.87	0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.2369
British Pound	0.6101
Canadian Dollar	1.0938
Chinese Renminbi	6.8312
Euro	0.7075
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7523
Indian Rupee	47.1440
Indonesian Rupiah	10,252.5000
Japanese Yen	96.2550
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4905
New Zealand Dollar	1.5455
Philippine Peso	47.2050
Singapore Dollar	1.4418
South Korean Won	1239.3500
Swiss Franc	1.0714
Taiwan Dollar	32.3710
Thailand Baht	34.1450

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Gates: More missile defense spending possible

FORT GREELY, Alaska (AP)—Defense Secretary Robert Gates isn't ruling out spending more on missile defense than what he's asked for in next year's budget if North Korea or other nations increase threats against the United States.

Gates said the missile tests by North Korea over the past week appear to have attracted more support on Capitol Hill for missile interceptors.

Gates was visiting the Missile Defense Complex in remote Alaska on Monday. The U.S. plans to store 26 ground-based missile interceptors in silos there. Four others are at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

Gates said he thinks that's enough to protect the U.S. right now.

He said he's requested nearly $1 billion in the 2010 fiscal budget to develop and maintain those missile interceptors. But the Pentagon's spending plan halts a planned expansion of the missile defense system at Fort Greely.

Gates called that "not a forever decision."

"And if capabilities in one of these rogue states should develop faster or in a more worrisome way than anybody anticipates right now, then I think the way is opened in the future to add to the number of silos and interceptors up here," he said.

"If anything, I think what the North Koreans have done has won more adherence to the importance of our having at least a unified missile defense capability," Gates said.

AP

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates fields a question during a town hall meeting with U.S. military units in a hangar on Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska Monday, June 1, 2009.

He repeated his belief that North Korea's missiles currently do not threaten the United States. North Korea this week moved a long-range missile—the second in three months—that some believe could hit the United States. But it's not clear what Pyongyang intends to do with it.

Gates added: "If there were a launch from a rogue state such as North Korea, I have good confidence that we would be able to deal with it."

The last time the United States tested its interceptors was in December, when one launched from Vandenberg hit a target intended to mimic the speed and trajectory of a North Korean missile. That cost $120 million to $150 million in what officials then called the most comprehensive missile defense test to date.

After decades of development, at a cost exceeding $100 billion, the missile defense system now in place in America—mainly at Greely and Vandenberg—is largely unproven and unpopular in Congress. It began as a way to stop long-range missiles launched in a doomsday scenario during the Cold War years when the United States and the Soviet Union targeted each other with thousands of nuclear missiles.

The military argues that the network is needed to protect the United States and its allies against growing threats from nations such as Iran and North Korea, both of which have tested long-range missiles.

But President Barack Obama expressed skepticism about the capabilities of the system during his campaign, leading to speculation he may reduce the program's scope.

Defendant in doc's killing railed against abortion

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—Scott Roeder harbored a burning, "eye-for-an-eye" anger toward abortion doctors. He once subscribed to a magazine suggesting "justifiable homicide" against them, and apparently likened Dr. George Tiller to the Nazi death-camp doctor Josef Mengele.

Roeder, 51, was in jail Monday on suspicion of murder, accused of shooting Tiller to death on Sunday as the doctor served as an usher at his Lutheran church in Wichita.

Police said it appears the gunman acted alone, and some anti-abortion groups moved quickly to distance themselves from the killing. Outside Tiller's clinic, the Kansas Coalition for Life placed signs saying members had prayed for Tiller's change of heart, "not his murder."

Roeder's ex-wife said his extreme anti-government beliefs contributed to the breakup of their marriage more than a decade ago. And Roeder's brother said he suffered from mental illness at various times in his life.

"However, none of us ever saw Scott as a person capable of or willing to take another person's life. Our deepest regrets, prayers and sympathy go out to the Tiller family during this terrible time," his brother, David, said in a statement to The Topeka Capital-Journal.

Roeder's family life began unraveling more than a decade ago when he got involved with anti-government groups, and then became "very religious in an Old Testament, eye-for-an-eye way," his former wife, Lindsey Roeder, told The Associated Press.

"The anti-tax stuff came first, and then it grew and grew. He became very anti-abortion," said Lindsey Roeder, who was married to Scott Roeder for 10 years but "strongly disagrees with his beliefs."

"That's all he cared about is anti-abortion. `The church is this. God is this.' Yadda yadda," she said.

Lindsey Roeder said that the early years of the marriage were good and that Scott Roeder worked in an envelope factory. But she said he moved out of their home after he became involved with the Freemen movement, an anti-government group that discouraged the paying of taxes. The Roeders have one son, now 22.

"When he moved out in 1994, I thought he was over the edge with that stuff," his ex-wife said. "He started falling apart. I had to protect myself and my son."

In 1996, Roeder (pronounced ROW-der) was arrested in Topeka after being stopped by sheriff's deputies because his car lacked a valid license plate. Instead, it bore a tag declaring him a "sovereign" and immune from state law. In the trunk, deputies found materials that could be assembled into a bomb.

ACROSS THE NATION

Border traffic moves easily with stricter ID code

HIDALGO, Texas (AP)—Fears of stalled commerce and travel didn't materialize at U.S. border crossings Monday as people stayed home or were gently warned on the first day of stricter identification requirements for Americans returning from Mexico and Canada. Traffic generally moved smoothly as those without proper identification stayed home or immigration officials let them pass through with a reminder to get a passport or other accepted ID. Those crossing the Hidalgo-Reynosa International Bridge in South Texas described the light traffic Monday morning as normal, with cars and pedestrians facing short lines.

2009 Atlantic hurricane season begins quietly

MIAMI (AP)—The "skinny black line," long a staple of forecasts showing a hurricane's projected path, could be a casualty of the 2009 Atlantic hurricane season that began Monday. While urging preparedness, the director of the nation's hurricane center said he's on a crusade against the line, which forecasters have long called misleading. Bill Read said this year, people who go to the hurricane center's Web site to track an approaching storm won't see that line, just a graphic that shows a cone representing the projected path of its center. He'll also urge local weather offices to use a line-less graphic.

Police: Phoenix mom coached youthful armed robbers

PHOENIX (AP)—Police in Phoenix say they've arrested a woman accused of leading an armed robbery gang involving her 12- and 14-year-old sons. Police say 51-year-old Cynthia White Roberson coached some of the four boys and three men who were charged with her. The suspects are accused of at least 20 armed robberies in Phoenix and Glendale since late April. Police say Roberson lost her job six weeks ago and guilted her sons and some of the others into committing the robberies to pay for rent and a car loan.

Police: Recruiting center gunman targeted military

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—A man with "political and religious motives" killed a soldier just out of basic training and wounded another Monday in a targeted attack on a military recruiting center, police said. The shootings were not believed to be part of a broader scheme.

A police report based on an interview with the suspect says Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammad, 23, told police he observed two soldiers in uniform, drove up to the recruiting center and started shooting.

"He saw them standing there and drove up and shot them," Lt. Terry Hastings told The Associated Press. "That's what he said."

The two soldiers who were shot had completed basic training within the past two weeks and were not regular recruiters, said Lt. Col. Thomas F. Artis of the Oklahoma City Recruiting Battalion, which oversees the Little Rock office.

William Long, 23, of Conway, died, and Quinton Ezeagwula, 18, of Jacksonville, was wounded and in stable condition, Police Chief Stuart Thomas said.

Both men were from nearby hometowns and volunteered to work at the recruiting center to attract other locals to the military. "They can show the example, 'Here's where I was, and here is where I am,'" Artis said.

Police arrested Muhammad, 23, along an interstate moments after the shootings at the Army-Navy Career Center in a shopping center in west Little Rock.

Muhammad had converted to Islam at some point in his life and interviews with police show he "probably had political and religious motives for the attack," the police chief said.

Muhammad, previously known as Carlos Bledsoe, was not part of a larger group nor was his attack part of a larger conspiracy, Thomas said.

"We believe that it's associated with his disagreement over the military operations," the police chief said.

Thomas said Muhammad would be charged with first-degree murder, plus 15 counts of committing a terroristic act. Thomas said those counts result from the gunfire occurring near other people.

Another 'black man did it' hoax sparks outrage

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—It's an old lie, claiming that The Black Man Did It.

But it was trotted out again last week when a white mother from suburban Philadelphia said two black men snatched her and her 9-year-old daughter from their SUV and abducted them in the trunk of a black Cadillac.

Blacks across the country were outraged after Bonnie Sweeten was found in a luxury hotel at Disney World. Authorities quickly unraveled the hoax, but not before an Amber Alert, frantic searches and national news coverage that played into images of marauding black men.

Racial boundaries are slowly dissolving in America, with President Barack Obama the most obvious example. Yet Sweeten's story, plus the killing of a black New York City cop by a white officer days later, was a reminder that old ideas remain burned into many minds both black and white.

Sweeten's story has provoked an outpouring of discussion among blacks, everywhere from doctor's offices to blogs. Syndicated radio host Warren Ballentine said his listeners are "furious, and they're disgusted. ... On a scale of one to 10, it's a 15."

"Their hope was that by Obama becoming president, the rest of America would take a look at black Americans and look at us for who we are and not what a stereotype is," he said.

The Black Man Did It lie last made news as recently as October, when a John McCain volunteer claimed a 6-foot-4 black man carved a B into her cheek (For Barack, evidently). Charles Stuart told it in 1989 after he killed his wife in Boston. Susan Smith told it when she drowned her sons in 1994 in South Carolina. Unknown numbers of black men were hanged for it back when lynching was a common practice.

And those are the ones we heard about. Law professor Katheryn Russell-Brown documents 67 racial hoaxes in the period between 1987 and 1996 in her book "The Color of Crime."

Asia

Reports: NKorea Kim's youngest son named successor

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Kim Jong Il's youngest son—a 26-year-old who reportedly enjoys skiing and studied English, German and French at a Swiss boarding school—was named North Korea's next leader in an announcement to top ruling party, government and military leaders, a South Korean lawmaker and newspapers said Tuesday,

The announcement naming Kim Jong Un as leader was sent after the nation's May 25 nuclear test, the Hankook Ilbo newspaper reported, citing unnamed members of South Korea's parliamentary intelligence committee briefed by the spy agency.

The Dong-a Ilbo newspaper carried a similar report saying North Korea is teaching its people a song lauding the new "Commander Kim." The paper cited unidentified sources. The National Intelligence Service said it cannot confirm the reports.

The reports about a new leader—the nation's third—comes at a time of mounting tensions over North Korea's April 5 rocket launch and the May 25 underground nuclear test, and indications that the North may be preparing to test-fire a long-range missile. Global powers are discussing how to rein in Pyongyang for its nuclear defiance.

Analysts have suspected the saber-rattling is part of a campaign to build unity and support for a new leader to replace 67-year-old Kim Jong Il, who reportedly suffered a stroke last August. Kim has three sons but had not publicly named a successor.

After disappearing from the public eye for weeks last fall, Kim re-emerged to make a busy round of trips nationwide and made his first state appearance at the delayed first session of the country's new legislature April 12.

Grayer and thinner, Kim limped ever so slightly as he entered parliament and was somber as he presided over a session that provided few clues to his succession plans.

He was believed to want to name a successor in 2012—the centenary of the birth of his father, North Korea founder Kim Il Sung—and the regime undertook a massive campaign last year to gear the country up for the 100th anniversary celebrations.

The April 5 launch of what North Korea claimed was a successful bid to send a communications satellite into space was believed part of the campaign to show off the country's scientific advancements.

But in an abrupt shift in plans, the regime stepped up the pace and in early May launched a "150-day campaign" urging North Korea's to work harder to build up the country's economy.

Analyst Cheong Seong-chang of the Sejong Institute, a South Korean security think tank, called it a "politically driven" campaign to parade the North's achievements before its people in a bid to bolster national pride.

The five-month campaign is set to culminate in early October, about the time of the anniversary of the founding of the ruling Workers' Party. He said North Korea could hold a national convention then—its first in nearly 30 years—to formally announce Kim's successor.

"I think the campaign is aimed at building up achievements that the successor can later claim credit for," he said last week.

Cheong noted that in the 1970s, Kim Il Sung arranged for his son to take credit for a "70-day battle" before he was tapped in 1974 as his father's successor. The succession decision was made public at a 1980 convention, and Kim Jong Il formally assumed leadership upon his father's death in 1994.

AP

A Chinese paramilitary police marches past North Korean leader Kim Jong Il's photos on display outside the North Korean Embassy in Beijing, China, Tuesday, June 2, 2009.

NKorea readies long-range missile test

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea appears to be preparing to test an advanced missile designed to reach the United States, a U.S. official said Monday, ratcheting up tensions after its second underground nuclear test.

The reclusive communist country also reportedly bolstered its defenses and conducted amphibious assault exercises along its western shore, near disputed waters where deadly naval clashes with the South have occurred in the past decade.

Satellite images and other intelligence indicated the North had transported its most advanced long-range missile to the new Dongchang-ni facility near China and could be ready to be fired in the next week or so, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported.

A U.S. official confirmed the Yonhap report and said the missile was moved by train, although he did not comment on where it was moved to, and said it could be more than a week before Pyongyang was ready to launch. He spoke on condition of anonymity because the issue involved intelligence.

The activity at the launch site came as the United Nations Security Council mulled punitive action for North Korea's May 25 nuclear test, and ahead of a June 16 summit in Washington between South Korean President Lee Myung-bak and President Barack Obama.

Philippines: Jollibees a symbol of security

LARA JAKES
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—In the serious business of battling the insurgents and poverty that plague the southern Philippine islands, the United States is in part measuring success by a far more whimsical standard: Jollibees.

A U.S. State Department official said Monday that the Philippine fast-food chain has become a symbol of economic and military security in Mindanao region, where 70 percent of Muslims in some areas live below the poverty line. Multiple extremist organizations, including one linked to al-Qaida, have infiltrated Mindanao, where U.S. Special Forces are training the Filipino military to root out and eliminate terrorists—not only by traditional warfare, but with also financial and community development.

It's similar to the counterinsurgency strategy the U.S. has been pushing in Iraq and Afghanistan for years, so far with much less luck.

That's where the Jollibees come in. Jon Lindborg, mission director for the U.S. Agency for International Development in the Philippines, said he maps where Jollibees open in Mindanao as "one of the best indicators of success."

"Where you find a Jollibee, you find enough security, you find enough risk appetite by the private sector to begin to invest and create jobs," Lindborg told reporters Monday. "Because ultimately, the issues in Mindanao are not just about security, but they're also about development."

The Pentagon cites Mindanao as an example of where U.S. efforts to train and advise other nations' militaries work well.

At a Monday news conference in Manila, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said he's asked for hundreds of millions of dollars in the Pentagon's 2010 budget to build similar so-called military-to-military alliances around the world.

"We have to be very sensitive of their sovereignty and their domestic politics," Gates said in the first visit to the Philippines by a U.S. defense secretary in nearly a decade. "And so we will move with these various countries at a pace that is comfortable for them. We have to look at this I think in the long term, and the stronger the foundation we can build under these relationships the longer they are likely to last and the more effective they will be."

Philippines Secretary of National Defense Gilberto C. Teodoro Jr. agreed.

"For me it is the range and scope of our relationship which is more important than the amount of assistance given by one government or the other," Teodoro said at the news conference.

The United States has pumped about $7 billion in economic assistance into its former colony since 1946, Lindborg said.

Neither Gates nor Teodoro spoke to the issue of whether the U.S. plans to cut its troop levels in the Philippines, as is speculated. An estimated 600 U.S. troops are currently stationed in the Philippines, mostly in the south.

Asked about future U.S. assistance, Teodoro merely said he planned to "fill in gaps as they come."

Suu Kyi trial sparks helpless outrage in Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The spray-painted demands appear overnight: "Free Aung San Suu Kyi" read the scrawls on walls across this city—only to be whitewashed by security forces as soon as they are discovered.

Since the trial of Myanmar's pro-democracy leader began two weeks ago, these small signs of defiance hint at the undercurrent of anger over the treatment of a woman considered to be a living icon by many of her compatriots.

But out in public, under the watchful gaze of the military regime, supporters feel helpless to do more as the trial winds to an end, with closing arguments scheduled for Friday.

There is little sign that private anguish will explode into the mass protests—all violently suppressed—that have marked the history of Myanmar, also known as Burma, since the military began its rule in 1962.

"I'm so upset about what has happened in my country," said Zin, a 28-year-old housewife who, like most Burmese, won't give her full name for fear of retaliation. "People are angry and people are sad, but we can't do anything for her. We have no power."

Suu Kyi, 63, a Nobel Peace laureate, is being tried on charges of violating her house arrest after an American, John W. Yettaw, swam uninvited to her lakeshore home and stayed for two days.

She has already been held in detention for 13 of the past 19 years, including the past six. Closing arguments have been delayed until Friday, but expectations are high that she will be found guilty since Myanmar's courts operate under the command of the ruling military.

Lawyers for Suu Kyi met Monday to prepare for the trial's closing arguments, said Nyan Win, one of her defense team and a spokesman for her National League for Democracy party.

"We are very confident that we will win the case if everything goes according to law," Nyan Win said. The defense has not contested the basic facts of the case, but argues instead that the relevant law has been misapplied by the authorities.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Geithner says US concerned about the deficits

BEIJING (AP)—As the federal budget deficit soars into the stratosphere, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner is reassuring the Chinese—the largest holders of U.S. government debt—that the Obama administration is serious about restoring fiscal discipline once the current economic crisis is resolved. Geithner, making his first trip to China as Treasury secretary, used a major economic policy address Monday as well as separate meetings with top Chinese officials to deliver that message. "As we recover from this unprecedented crisis, we will cut our fiscal deficit, we will eliminate the extraordinary government support that we have put in place to overcome the crisis," Geithner said in a speech to students at Peking University.

Lawyer: Suspect in Mumbai attacks released

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—A lawyer for the leader of an Islamic group suspected in the deadly terrorist attacks in Mumbai last year says a court has ordered his release. Lawyer A.K. Dogar said the Lahore High Court has ruled there was no reason to hold Hafiz Mohammad Saeed, the head of Islamist group Jamaat-ud-Dawa. The group is widely believed to be a front for the militant network that carried out the Mumbai attacks. Independent confirmation of the decision was not immediately available. Saeed was among four people detained late last year and questioned in connection to the attacks in the Indian city that killed 166 people. India has said it suspects militants based in Pakistan may have been behind the attacks.

4 US troops killed in IED strikes in Afghanistan

KABUL (AP)—Two roadside bombs that struck back-to-back and only miles apart hit two U.S. military vehicles in Afghanistan Monday, killing four American troops, U.S. and Afghan officials said. U.S. military officials have predicted a 50 percent spike in IED attacks in Afghanistan this year as militants step up attacks and thousands of more troops pour into the country. The deaths bring to 64 the number of U.S. forces killed in Afghanistan this year, according to an Associated Press count based on military figures. That far surpasses the 36 troops killed through the first five months of 2008, the deadliest year for American forces since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion to oust the Taliban.

World

Vast search of Atlantic Ocean for Air France jet

AP

Relatives of passengers of the Air France flight 447 are pictured through a glass door as they react at the Tom Jobim Airport in Rio de Janeiro, Monday, June 1, 2009.

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—An Air France jet with 228 people on a flight to Paris vanished over the Atlantic Ocean after flying into towering thunderstorms and sending an automated message that the electrical system had failed. A vast search began Monday, but all aboard were feared killed.

Military aircraft scrambled out to the center of the Atlantic, far from the coasts of Brazil and West Africa, and France sought U.S. satellite help to find the wreckage. The first military ship wasn't expected to reach the area where the plane disappeared until Wednesday.

If there are no survivors, it would be the world's worst aviation disaster since 2001.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy said the cause remains unclear and that "no hypothesis" is being excluded. Some experts dismissed speculation that lightning might have brought the plane down. But violent thunderheads reaching more than 50,000 feet high can pound planes with hail and high winds, causing structural damage if pilots can't maneuver around them.

Sarkozy said he told family members of passengers on Air France Flight 447 that prospects of finding survivors are "very small."

Brazil's president, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, expressed hope that "the worst hasn't happened," and said "we have to ask God" to help find survivors.

The 4-year-old Airbus A330 left Rio Sunday night with 216 passengers and 12 crew members on board, said company spokeswoman Brigitte Barrand. Most of the passengers were Brazilian and French, but 32 nations in all were represented, including two Americans.

The plane was cruising normally at 35,000 feet (10,670 meters) and 522 mph (840 kph) just before it disappeared nearly four hours into the flight. No trouble was reported as the plane left radar contact, beyond Brazil's Fernando de Noronha archipelago, at 10:48 local time.

But just north of the equator, a line of towering thunderstorms loomed. Bands of extremely turbulent weather stretched across the Atlantic toward Africa, as they often do in the area this time of year.

Conservative rival gains ground in Iran

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Some of the biggest election day tests for President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad may not just come from his pro-reform challengers, but from within the conservative ranks that pushed him to victory four years ago.

His lone hard-line rival—veteran regime insider Mohsen Rezaei—has been quietly, but steadily, chipping away at the bedrock of Ahmadinejad's support: working-class families, war veterans and others whose identity is deeply rooted in the Islamic Revolution.

Rezaei, a former commander of the powerful Revolutionary Guards, is still considered a long-shot in the four-candidate race that includes Ahmadinejad and two reform-leaning challengers.

But his dark horse campaign is far from insignificant and could pose some serious hurdles for Ahmadinejad on June 12.

For conservatives, he offers a clear protest vote for those complaining Ahmadinejad has spent too much time snarling at the West and not enough time on Iran's slumping economy. Reformers—including backers of front-running challenger Mir Hossein Mousavi—are hoping Rezaei could split the conservative vote and leave Ahmadinejad vulnerable.

There are even hints of a possible political alliance between Rezaei and reformists if Ahmadinejad is ousted, but Rezaei's presence in any government could further sour relations with the West and efforts to move ahead with possible talks with Washington.

He is among six people—five Iranians and one Lebanese—wanted by Interpol in connection with a 1994 bombing of a Jewish center in Argentina that killed 85 people. Iran has rejected the warrants as politically motivated.

Clinton tries to remake US image in S. America

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is trying to ease longstanding resentment of U.S. policies in Latin America by showing up this week for events that highlight Washington's awkward history with the region.

Clinton attended the inauguration of El Salvador's first leftist president, Mauricio Funes, on Monday. The new leader comes from a party of a former Marxist rebel group that fought a 12-year war against successive conservative governments and a military supported by billions of dollars in aid from Washington.

On Tuesday in Honduras, Clinton planned to be at a top-level meeting of the Organization of American States that will test the Obama administration's new openness toward Cuba.

In two days of events in El Salvador, Clinton repeatedly stressed that she and President Barack Obama were committed to a "new approach to the region," one that emphasized engagement and cooperation and not ideological battles.

"It is very clear that President Obama and President Funes share so much in common. Some might say President Obama is left of center and of course that means that we are going to work well with countries that share our commitment to improving and enhancing the human potential," Clinton said Monday evening.

Clinton sounded a similar theme earlier Monday in remarks to employees at the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador.

"We have to recognize that our country is not perfect either, that some of the difficulties that we had historically in forging strong and lasting relationships in our hemisphere are a result of us perhaps not listening, perhaps not paying enough attention," Clinton said.

Netanyahu rejects US calls for settlement freeze

HAVAT GILAD, West Bank (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday rejected President Barack Obama's demand for a freeze on West Bank Jewish settlement construction, but his government's move to dismantle some squatter camps set off a rampage by Jewish settlers against Palestinians.

It was a violent reminder that Netanyahu is caught between his own hard-line supporters and Israel's vital relationship with Washington. So far, Netanyahu has appeared sympathetic to the settlers, but protests over his limited West Bank policy spread as far as Jerusalem.

On Monday, Netanyahu briefed the Israeli parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee about his recent meeting with Obama. The American president and his secretary of state, Hillary Rodham Clinton, have demanded that Israel halt all settlement construction, including expansion to accommodate what Israel calls "natural growth" of settlements.

Netanyahu said Israel cannot "freeze life" in settlements, according to a participant who spoke on condition of anonymity because the meeting was closed. Netanyahu was quoted as saying that "there are reasonable requests and unreasonable requests."

At the same time, in an apparent gesture to Obama, Netanyahu's government has begun dismantling small settler outposts built without formal government authorization. But even that limited step has triggered settler violence.

Settlers have vowed to retaliate with attacks on Palestinians after removal even the tiniest enclave—a tactic known as "price tag."

"We will do everything we can to oppose this," said settler Yehuda Shimon at the Havat Gilad outpost in the northern West Bank.

Monday's settler violence started near the radical settlement of Yizhar, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said. About 100 settlers blocked a road. Six were later arrested.

WORLD BRIEFS

Berlusconi slams paparazzi, laments media scandal

ROME (AP)—Premier Silvio Berlusconi slammed the paparazzi Sunday for taking photos of a New Year's party at his Sardinian home that was attended by an 18-year-old at the heart of a political and personal storm. At a campaign stop in Bari, the premier also lamented that the scandal was playing out on the front pages of newspapers, saying such personal matters belonged exclusively in the private, family sphere. "We've really hit bottom with this intrusion into the private lives of everyone," Berlusconi said. Prosecutors on Saturday seized hundreds of photos taken by a Sardinian photographer of a New Year's party at Berlusconi's villa that was attended by 18-year-old Noemi Letizia and dozens of other young women.

Canadian at Guantanamo asks to dismiss US lawyers

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—A Canadian detainee rejected his U.S. military attorneys Monday at the first session of the Guantanamo war crimes tribunals called under President Barack Obama, complicating his high-profile case and the administration's timeline for closing the prison. Omar Khadr, who is charged with killing an American soldier in Afghanistan, said he lost trust in his Pentagon-appointed lawyers after witnessing an ugly internal squabble that prompted the pretrial hearing. "How am I supposed to trust them if they are accusing each other?" said Khadr, 22, who had a full black beard and wore a white prison jumpsuit. The judge set another hearing next month in a long-running drama that suggests Obama's plan to close the offshore prison by January is overly optimistic.

South African mining co.: 36 illegal miners killed

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—An underground fire in an abandoned shaft has apparently killed 36 illegal miners, South Africa's Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited said Monday. In a statement, the company said the bodies were brought to the surface by other illegal miners over the weekend. Harmony said it was unclear if other illegal miners had died at the Eland shaft in central South Africa. It said it would not send its own workers in to search because "the abandoned mining areas where the criminal miners have been active are extremely dangerous." Mining minister Susan Shabangu expressed her condolences in a statement Monday.

Campus Life

11 GES parents complete story-reading course

Garapan Elementary School parent participants, family members, and guests gathered on May 13, 2009, for a Motheread/Fatheread program presentation of certificates at the school's cafeteria.

As a closing activity for the Motheread adult course session, the participants agreed to "animate" the story of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* by James Marshall, by role-playing the characters of the story.

This is a modern version of the classic story that we all know so well. In Marshall's version, when Goldilocks' mother asks her to buy some muffins, she warns her not to take the shortcut through the forest. But Goldilocks is a little girl who "does exactly as she pleases," and she ignores her mother's warning. Soon she comes across a charming cottage where no one is at home. Unknown to her, the bears who lived there have gone for a bike ride while their breakfast porridge cools. She lets herself in, spills the porridge, breaks the chair, and tries out all the beds until she falls asleep. When the bears return, they are shocked to find their house a wreck. Goldilocks wakes up to find three bears scowling at her, and she jumps up, leaps out the window, and they never see her again.

Each participant role-played the characters of the story expressively, and it was appreciated by the children and audience present that night. It was truly a unique experience for the participants, who acted out the characters enthusiastically.

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After eight sessions, participants in the Motheread adult course become familiar with the many ways to use stories to improve children's academic skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing, comprehension and critical thinking. The Motheread adult curriculum also helps parent participants understand and grasp the underlying messages in the stories that they will read to their child/children—valuable life lessons evident only through close scrutiny.

The successful completion of the adult course at GES will not be possible without the diligence and sacrifices of the elementary teachers: Elaine C. Delacruz and Claire Delacruz. They coordinated the course session schedules with the Motheread trainers and the parent participants (and reminded parents of the class sessions when participants missed attending this literacy program). The hardworking teachers also committed their time to attend to the children of the participating parents for the entire eight sessions.

Their hard work paid off, with 11 parents out 16 completing the Motheread adult course. The parent participants for this cycle were: Lowell Parco, Grace Parco, Agripina Pangelinan, Silverio Kapileo, Jesus Flora, Mercy Apritado, Janna Salvador, Angelina Caoile, Erma Tubera, Rowena Dimalanta, and Agnes Maranan.

The adult course was facilitated by Rhea Ayne Penalosa-Chong, and was co-facilitated by Bryan Manabat.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Garapan Elementary School's Motheread/Fatheread participants, trainers, teachers, students, and guests pose for a group photo during the closing activity for the program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
As a closing activity for the Motheread adult course session, the parents "animate" the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears by role-playing the characters of the story.

Motheread program coordinator Viola Deleon Guerrero remarked upon the noteworthy involvement of the parents in their child's educational development. She also helped the Motheread trainers award the certificates to participants.

The CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program is a literacy project of the NMI Council for the Humanities in partnership with the Public School System, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and other generous donors.

Interested participants are invited to join the scheduled adult course session at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on June 11, 2009, 6pm. For more information, contact Viola Deleon Guerrero or Bryan Manabat at 235-7319, 285-1268, or e-mail cnmimotheread@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Rota students take part in Guam anti-drug workshop

As part of their school's drug and violence prevention efforts, Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja students, teachers, and one parent from Rota participated in the various workshops held in Guam presented by the U.S. Air Force and Army Counter Drug Task Force.

In addition, the ESFDB students visited the San Vicente Catholic School, which is one of the schools that have a drug and violence prevention program headed by the Pacific Regional Training Institute.

The students that took part in the workshops are ESFDB DARE Student Body president Van Cing, ESFDB GUTS Student Body president Vannah Dior Hocog, Maricel Atalig, PRTI Jr. NBA Honorary Player Chuck Barcinas, Randee Jo Barcinas, Rhea Costales, Baltazar Mendiola, PRTI Jr. WNBA Honorary Player Angelique Perez, and Pauline Taisacan.

The students of Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja acknowledged the Pacific Regional Training Institute drug prevention program, parents, the Ricardo Barcinas couple, Paul and Kendra Tanaka (Hawaii), San Vicente Catholic School, U.S. Air Force and Army Counterdrug Task Force Unit, St. Tomas Aquinas High School, Vice Mayor June Blas, Sen. Frank Blaz, Jr., the Guam Fire Department, Tarza management and staff, the Blas family, Bay Breeze Restaurant (Rota), and the Rota community who helped in any way possible to make this trip to Guam a success. ***(PR)***

Left, members of the PRTI ESFD-DARE/GUTS student body pose with Tarza Magical Adventure supervisor Tim Flores. The Tarza management and staff donated 11 waterpark passes to the students of Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja. Below, PRTI ESFDB DARE/GUTS students pose with the U.S. Air Force Counter Drug Task Force after their presentation. Not in photo is PRTI Supervisor SFC Maratita, Edward Jr.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Life & Style

'Up' director finds escape in reality

By MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Directing a Pixar feature can take a lot out of you. Five years spent coordinating the work of an army of computer animators, designers, sound and visual effects artists, voice talent, software engineers and, often, one or more co-directors can be taxing. Especially if you're a self-described introvert and animation geek like Pete Docter, who grew up drawing flip books in the corners of his math textbooks and still buries his head in a sketch pad whenever he has a free minute or two.

In town to promote his second feature, "Up"—the 3-D tale of a 78-year-old widower and a little boy who fly to South America in a house attached to thousands of helium balloons—the almost 20-year Pixar veteran talked about the strains of making a modern-day cartoon.

"By the end of the day, I just wanted to be by myself," he says, recalling his experience working on the 2001 film "Monsters, Inc." "I wanted to go retreat into my basement, or under my desk, or something."

And that's exactly where the idea for "Up" came from.

"I was thinking around for what to do next," says Docter, 40. "One thing that kept coming to me was this idea of escape. The visual of a floating house seemed like, 'Oh yeaaah, that's ...' "His voice trails off, and he gets the blissed-out look of someone remembering a childhood dream of flight. "Getting away from the world, that's really intriguing and enticing. And so we started thinking more about, 'Who was the guy in the house?' and 'Why is he doing this?' and 'How's all that work?'"

The answer to that last question is complicated.

When making a movie about a floating house, do you really need to do any homework? Can't you just say, at some point, to heck with reality, it's a cartoon?

"Well, yes," Docter says. "Both."

His people did do a bit of research. On wind currents for instance. Just to see if it would be plausible to make the journey that Carl Fredricksen (voice of Ed Asner) makes in the film. Turns out you could float to South America, if you catch one air current to the equator, then hitch a ride on another. "Of course, the whole thing's a fudge," the director admits. "The whole idea of being able to steer a house. If you had a balloon lift, and these wings on the side, all it would do is turn around in space. What we try to do is find one or two things that seem real and then lean on those."

One thing the film leans on is the otherworldly South American landscape that Carl sails to. It's a fanciful place, called Paradise Falls in the film, but based on the real-life canyon lands of Venezuela, where the topography is characterized by towering, flat-topped mountains called tepuis that are separated by deep chasms. "They're really inaccessible and weird," Docter says. "And there was not a lot of research that we found on them."

A perfect destination for a movie about a flying house, in other words. And an opportunity for a little spontaneous escapism that Docter wasn't about to pass up.

"We said, 'They're so trippy-looking, we better go check this out,' " Docter says. "Because I'm not sure we're really going to be able to capture this if we don't see it firsthand." The fact-finding mission provided him with pictures of bizarre rock formations, spiky plants and exotic animals, many of which made it into the film.

Still, the director's quick to point out that "Up," which will be screened in both 3-D and 2-D versions, is about more than eye-popping visuals. At heart, it's the story of a bored old man who seeks the thrill of faraway lands, only to discover that his life at home with his late wife had been a great adventure all along. Based on what Docter hopes is recognizable emotion, the director says he believes that it's this pathos that tethers the lighter-than-air comedy to the ground.

"I still think there might be some people who go to this movie and go, 'Wow, you guys have pretty wild imaginations.' But it's all based on real stuff."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Despite the threat of a loud burst, Jordan Nagai is a quiet kid. But "Up" director Pete Docter got lines out of him, even when it took some tickling.

Shy actor flies high on cue in 'Up'

By SUSAN KING
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—Director Pete Docter knew he would have to be resourceful in getting shy Jordan Nagai, age 9, to laugh on cue for his role as a Wilderness Explorer named Russell in Disney/Pixar's animated "Up," which opens Friday. "First, I think we said, 'Think of something really funny, and you kind of went, 'Ha, ha, ha,' " Docter reminds Nagai during a recent interview. "I remember at one point, I picked you up upside-down and tickled your tummy and said, 'Say the line.' You were really laughing."

There were other times when he needed more energy out of Nagai, especially when the youngster had to repeat a line dozens of times.

"We would come up with games," recalled Docter. "I would say, 'Jordan, next time before (you say the line), run over there, run around the chair three times, jump up and down three times,' and you would do it. A lot of times that would make you more energetic."

Nagai looks up at Docter: "Yeah," he says in barely a whisper.

Because Nagai is so quiet, it was suggested that Docter do the interview with him at a room poolside at the Hollywood Roosevelt hotel recently. But the filmmaker still ended up doing most of the talking.

Nagai was chosen from about 500 kids who auditioned to play Russell, a typically rambunctious 8-year-old who befriends a crotchety, elderly widower named Carl (Ed Asner). After Carl's wife, Ellie, dies before they got a chance to travel to the legendary Paradise Falls in South America, Carl, who worked with balloons all of his life, attaches thousands of balloons to his house so he can travel to the location. Russell ends up stowing away in the floating house.

"I don't know if we told you this, Jordan," Docter tells Nagai, "but in some of the later sessions your voice had gotten a little bit different, so we had to pitch it up to make it a little bit higher so it would match your earlier voice because you are getting big."

Originally, Nagai's older brother, Hunter, was to audition for Russell. But Nagai, who is 18 months younger, tagged along.

"I have done auditions before for commercials," said Nagai. "But not for a movie."

While at the session, the casting director asked Nagai to try out.

"You got to go up and say some things about judo," Docter says to Nagai.

"They recorded Jordan here, and they brought the tapes up to Pixar and we listened to like 35 tapes. As soon as Jordan's voice came on we started smiling because he is appealing and innocent and cute and different from what I was initially thinking."

After more auditions and recordings, Nagai got the job.

Initially, said Docter, Russell was to be more hyper. In fact, the initial concept was based on the effusive personality of animator Peter Sohn, who was the voice of Emile in "Ratatouille" and is the director of the short "Partly Cloudy," which will be shown before "Up."

"But Jordan, you were a little more calm and relaxed about things," said Docter, who also directed Pixar's "Monsters, Inc." "We started to change the character, and that made him more unique and special."

Since completing "Up," he also supplied a voice on an episode of "The Simpsons," which will air in December.

Though he never recorded his dialogue with any of the other "Up" actors, that wasn't the case with "The Simpsons."

"I was with the person who plays Bart (Nancy Cartwright)," says Nagai. "She said I was the first kid to record on 'The Simpsons.'"

Was Nagai surprised to learn that bad boy Bart is actually played by a woman?

"Kinda," he said with a small smile.

Pixar's 'Up'-lifting tale

By ANN HORNADAY
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

There's a famous dictum in Hollywood, a well-worn diplomatic way of handling what to say to filmmakers after they've delivered a dog of a film: "Well, you've done it again!"

Pixar has done it again, but in every best way possible. "Up," the company's first foray into 3-D animation, hews brilliantly to the aesthetic and narrative values audiences have come to expect from the artists who brought forth such classics as "Toy Story" and "Finding Nemo." In adding 3-D to the mix, they use the technical innovation, not for visual stunts or "watch out!" moments, but to add another layer of depth and texture. The result is a soaring, touching, funny and altogether buoyant movie that lives up to its title in spirit and in form.

Ed Asner provides the voice behind Carl Fredricksen, a boxily built curmudgeon (and Spencer Tracy look-alike) who decides to fly his house to South America by way of a bunch of balloons. Newcomer Jordan Nagai voices the young Wilderness Explorer Russell, who comes along for the ride, to Carl's initial consternation and eventual comfort. Among "Up's" myriad pleasures is watching this inter-generational friendship bloom, at a time when pop culture seems to be dominated by snarky 'tween-centric sensibilities.

Kids will howl at the creatures Russell and Carl meet on their adventure, including a brightly plumed bird named Kevin, a dimwitted but lovable dog named Dug and a fierce-looking Doberman with a voice that evokes one of Alvin's chipmunks. Adults will appreciate the finer things in "Up," including a sublime prologue limning the hopes and heartbreaks of Carl's life, a passage worthy of Chaplin in its heartbreaking poignancy.

Blind pianists wows audiences at piano contest

By ANGELA K. BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—With a dramatic bow of pianist Nobuyuki Tsujii's head, rich sounds of the piano, violins, cello and viola broke the concert hall silence as he and a string quartet played Schumann's Piano Quintet in E-flat major, Op. 44.

Just before the final note about 30 minutes later, the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition audience began clapping. People jumped to their feet, some whistling or yelling, "Bravo!"

The standing ovation lasted nearly five minutes, so long that the 20-year-old from Japan returned to the stage twice to bow, grinning from ear to ear.

The audience may have loved Friday's performance, but not everyone may have known its significance. Tsujii—who was born blind—had to figure out how to cue the other musicians. That was especially important with the Schumann piece, because all instruments must start playing simultaneously in the first movement.

After his first rehearsal last week with the Takacs Quartet—the University of Colorado at Boulder-based group that performs with all 12 Cliburn semifinalists—Tsujii said he decided to nod his head as a cue.

He had only played with a chamber music group once before, recently in Japan, after learning it would be required should he advance to the Cliburn semifinals. He previously performed with symphony orchestras in Paris, Berlin and Tokyo, and he followed the conductor's breathing, he said.

But Tsujii said his blindness has not limited his playing opportunities and that he doesn't want to be known as the pianist who cannot see.

"The most important objective as I'm performing is that the audience is going to be moved," Tsujii said through an interpreter.

While playing on stage, first violin Edward Dusinberre occasionally glanced at Tsujii, and he and the other Takacs Quartet members also seemed to rely on musical cues.

"We've had a great time working with him," Dusinberre said before Friday's performance. "There is of course a tremendous intensity to his listening to what we're doing, and his sense of timing is very natural, and so we're having a great time communicating with him."

Cliburn officials initially said Tsujii was the competition's first blind competitor but recently were reminded about a blind pianist who didn't advance past the first round in 1973.

Tsujii, nicknamed Nobu, already had fans in Japan but has gained even more since arriving at the Cliburn. So far, video of his preliminary round performance on the contest's Web site has about 11,400 views, the most of the 29 pianists who started in the competition.

Van Cliburn, the legendary classical pianist and namesake of the prestigious contest held every four years, told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that Tsujii's playing was "absolutely miraculous" and "truly divine" after hearing him last week.

Tsujii was just a baby when he showed an interest in music, said his mother, Itsuko Tsujii of Tokyo.

AP

In this Wednesday, May 27, 2009 photo, semifinalist Nobuyuki Tsujii, 20, of Japan, who is blind from birth, rehearses with the Takacs Quartet on the stage at Bass Hall, in preparation for the semifinal round of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, in Fort Worth, Texas.

"When I would put on Chopin CDs, he reacted very actively, patting the sofa, and seemed to be enjoying it," she said through an interpreter.

After he played the toy piano she got him at age 2, he started taking lessons at 4 and began learning to read music in Braille. But because that method took too much time, he listened to music recorded by his piano teacher and memorized it, which took a few days for some pieces or a week for longer, more complex ones, he said.

"Although he is blind, you never know that when listening to his music," Rena Miyamoto, an assistant piano teacher at Ueno Gakuen University in Tokyo who recently began working with him, said through an interpreter. "His music is from his soul, his heart."

The six Cliburn finalists will be announced Sunday night. All of them will receive managed concert tours worth $1 million, and each of the top three finishers will receive $20,000 and get to record a CD, among other prizes. The winners will be announced June 7.

Microsoft unveils motion control for Xbox 360

By DERRIK J. LANG
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gamers, get ready for your close-up.

Microsoft introduced a prototype camera Monday that can be used as a controller for the Xbox 360. Codenamed "Project Natal," the camera eliminates the need for a handheld input device - instead, the gizmo can track a player's full body movement, recognize their face and voice, scan images of real items and respond to both physical and vocal commands.

Microsoft also debuted 10 exclusive new games and several additions to the Xbox Live online service at their flashy Electronic Entertainment Expo press conference at University of Southern California's Galen Center.

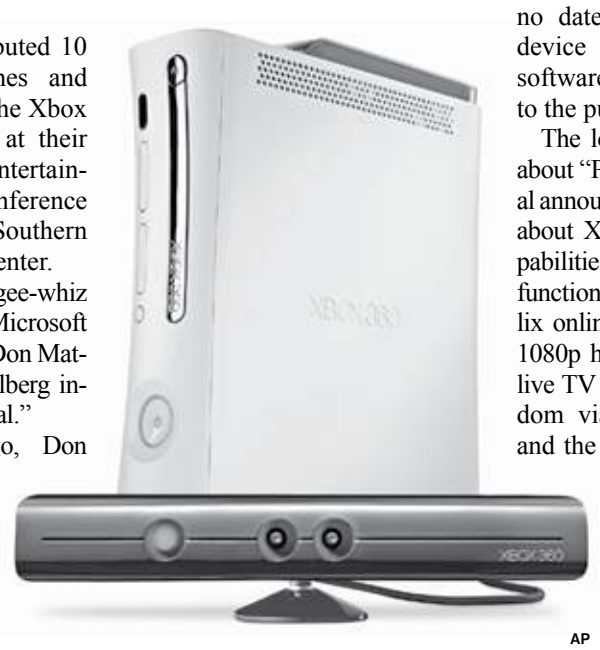
But the biggest gee-whiz moment came when Microsoft senior vice president Don Mattrick and Steven Spielberg introduced "Project Natal."

"Two months ago, Don shared with me the 'Natal' experience, and the gamer in me went out of my mind when I got to be really interactive with this," said Spielberg, a game developer as well as filmmaker. "More dramatically, I felt like I was present for a historic moment, a moment as significant as the transformation from the square-shaped movie screen to CinemaScope and then to IMAX."

During the press conference, "Project Natal" was demonstrated with three prototype programs: "Ricochet," a soccer-like game which required the player to use their entire body to bounce balls at targets; "Paint Party," an art-making program that used the player's body as the brush; and "Milo," a virtual boy who communicated and interacted with the player.

"This is all about breaking down barriers the only way Xbox 360 can," Microsoft corporate vice president Shane Kim said before the conference. "For far too long, the controller has kept people from playing games. 'Project Natal' totally eliminates the need for a controller, and we believe it's going to bring people together in a way we haven't seen before."

The "Project Natal" prototype device showcased at the E3 press conference combines a camera, depth sensor, microphone and processor running proprietary software. Kim said game developers would receive "Project Natal" development kits Monday, and that there was no date set for when the device and accompanying software would be available to the public.



AP

In this product image released by Microsoft, a Project Natal sensor for the XBOX 360 is shown.

The loud event wasn't all about "Project Natal." Several announcements were made about Xbox 360's video capabilities including increased functionality with the Netflix online service, streaming 1080p high-definition video, live TV in the United Kingdom via the Sky network and the ability to watch selected movies online with friends with Xbox Live Party.

Among the 10 new games announced that will be released exclusively on the Xbox 360: the open-world action sequel "Crackdown 2," New Orleans-set zombie-killing sequel "Left 4 Dead 2," stealthy third-person shooter "Splinter Cell Conviction," sleek racer "Forza Motorsport 3," first-person shooter "Halo: ODST" and psychological thriller "Alan Wake."

For the Xbox Live online service, Microsoft announced the ability to access streaming music service Last.fm as well as the social networking sites Facebook and Twitter beginning this fall. The social networking sites will be fully integrated into the Xbox Live interface, allowing users to send messages, upload photos and tweet with their Xbox 360.

Lawsuit: Copycat book not authorized by Salinger

NEW YORK (AP)—J.D. Salinger is taking another fan to court.

The 90-year-old creator of "The Catcher in the Rye," as protective of his work as he is of his privacy, is seeking an injunction against the writer, publishers and distributor of a spinoff of the author's famous novel.

Lawyers for Salinger filed the lawsuit in federal court in Manhattan on Monday, seeking to stop publication of what it says is a copycat book titled "60 Years Later: Coming Through the Rye," by someone writing under the name John David California. It also seeks unspecified damages.

The lawsuit said the right to create a sequel to "The Catcher in the Rye" or to use the character "Holden Caulfield" belongs only to Salinger. The lawsuit says Salinger, who has never allowed "Catcher" to be filmed, staged or otherwise adapted, has "decidedly chosen not to exercise that right."

Besides California, identified in the court papers as "John Doe," the lawsuit also cites Windupbird Publishing, an obscure company allegedly based in London; a Swedish publisher, Nicotext; and SCB Distributors, based in Gardena, Calif.

In "60 Years Later," scheduled to be published in Britain this summer and in the United States in the fall, a character very much like Caulfield is 76 years old, an escapee from a retirement home and identified as "Mr. C." The novel is dedicated to Salinger and the author is a character in it, too, wondering whether to continue Caulfield's story.

"The Sequel is not a parody and it does not comment upon or criticize the original," alleged Salinger's lawsuit alleged, which cited numerous similarities in story and in language. "It is a ripoff pure and simple."

The lawsuit presented California as a mysterious, unsavory character, of uncertain name and location. "His precise whereabouts are unknown, despite due investigation," according to the court papers.

Aaron Silverman, the director of SCB Distributors, said that California was a resident of Sweden and provided The Associated Press with a phone number with a Swedish country code. Reached by the AP, a man identifying himself as California said that he lived outside of Goteborg, Sweden. He called the legal action "a little bit insane" and said that Salinger had control over the names of his characters, but not over his style or perspective.

"To me, this is a story about an old man. It's a love story, a story about an author and his character," said California, who added that John David California was his pen name. He declined to give his real name and said that he did not intend "John David" as an homage to Salinger, whose full name is Jerome David Salinger.

"I did not mean to cause him any trouble," California said.

A recluse living in rural New Hampshire, Salinger has not published in a book in decades and has rarely been heard from in public—except when taking legal action.

In 1982, he sued a man who allegedly tried to sell a fictitious interview with the author to a national magazine. The impostor agreed to desist and Salinger dropped the suit.

Five years later, another Salinger legal action resulted in an important decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court refused to allow publication of an unauthorized biography, by Ian Hamilton, that quoted from the author's unpublished letters. Salinger had copyrighted the letters when he learned about Hamilton's book, which came out in a revised edition in 1988.

In 2003, Salinger stopped the BBC from staging a television production of "Catcher." His court papers state that he has turned down requests from Steven Spielberg and Harvey Weinstein to acquire film rights.

Salinger did not appear in court in those cases and is not expected to for this lawsuit.

"Catcher" is summarized at length in Monday's papers and Salinger's legacy is duly praised. He is identified as "the acclaimed author of numerous works of fiction" and "Catcher in the Rye" is called "one of the all-time classic American novels, achieving phenomenal critical and commercial success."

Caulfield is described as a "precocious" 16 year old with a "slang-peppered vocabulary." He has "no explicit goal" and the plot is "best described as series of incidents" set in New York.

Bruno stunt at MTV Awards brings buzz to all

NEW YORK (AP)—In the aftermath of the Sacha Baron Cohen and Eminem stunt at the MTV Movie Awards, all the Internet was abuzz over what was real and what wasn't.

Which is probably just how everyone involved wants it to be.

In case you weren't watching Sunday night, Baron Cohen crash landed on top of the rapper Eminem in a sketch guided by seemingly divine intervention.

The comedian, appearing in character as gay fashionista Bruno, was suspended by a harness above the audience, dressed as an angel. As he was pulled closer to the stage, his flight was interrupted by a set of speakers.

Captain Sully he is not. Baron Cohen slowly nose-dived on the rapper, with his groin positioned right on Eminem's face and his bare butt in the air.

"Is the real Slim Shady about to stand up?" chirped Baron Cohen, the perfect line at the ready.

Apparently not amused, Eminem told his entourage—with expletives—to remove Baron Cohen from his lap. He then promptly stormed out of the theater in an exit that appeared captured especially well by cameras and microphones.

It was particularly ironic since Eminem, fairly or not, is considered by many to be homophobic. And at the 2002 MTV Video Music Awards, he proved his sometimes lacking sense of humor during an interview with a puppet: Triumph the Insult Comic Dog.

But was his apparent disgust over the close encounter with Baron Cohen genuine, or part of an elaborate stunt?

On Monday, nobody was inclined to dispel the mystery.

Publicists for Eminem didn't return messages. Baron Cohen's spokesman said the comedian had no comment. MTV didn't respond to messages, but saw fit to feature the moment prominently on its home page.

That left viewers and fans to debate whether Eminem was in on the joke. Usually, when there's any doubt if something was staged by MTV, it was: Just last year, Seth Rogen and James Franco pulled a smokescreen of a stunt when they took the Movie Awards presenters' podium with a big bag of what appeared to be marijuana and a joint. Franco later said that the network put them up to the gag, even supplying the script and the props.

AP

Sacha Baron Cohen, in character as Bruno, is lowered into the audience during the MTV Movie Awards on Sunday May 31, 2009, in Universal City, Calif.

Award show veteran Ryan Seacrest, for one, speculated on his Twitter feed that Eminem must have known, but perhaps didn't expect such proximity to Baron Cohen's bare bottom.

We have been here before: Baron Cohen specializes in comedy that turns reality on its head. His last film, "Borat," was a cultural phenomenon partially because of the buzz his antics created—not to mention the resulting lawsuits from some of its unwitting participants.

His performance Sunday—and the resulting chatter—surely raised the profile of his upcoming film, "Bruno," which comes out in mid-July. (We should all get ready for a steady diet of quandaries over what is and isn't real in the film.)

Similarly, Eminem has a new album out ("Relapse") that sold 608,000 copies in its first week of release, according to Nielsen SoundScan. At times Tuesday, Eminem was one of the most searched topics on Twitter, ranking above both the MTV Awards itself, and the night's big winner, the teen vampire film "Twilight."

MTV, for its part, would likely be ecstatic. Their award shows have long been famous for their unexpected stunts but in recent years have struggled to find a true water-cooler moment.

Howard Bragman, veteran Hollywood publicist and author of "Where's My Fifteen Minutes?" was skeptical Eminem was in on the joke and doubted he benefited from the attention. He urged the rapper to "lighten up a little."

"When my clients go to something like that or go on `The Howard Stern Show' or certain places that you know are going to be a little outrageous, you have to go with the right spirit," said Bragman. "Generally, you're perceived better if you laugh along with the joke."

UK singing star Susan Boyle suffering exhaustion

LONDON (AP)—Singer Susan Boyle was being treated for exhaustion at a mental health clinic Monday after taking second place in a TV talent competition that turned the humble church volunteer into a global star, the show's producers and a newspaper said.

Boyle was admitted to London's Priory Clinic on Sunday, a day after she finished behind a male dance group on the show "Britain's Got Talent," the Sun newspaper reported.

"Nobody has had to put up with the kind of attention Susan has had. Nobody could have predicted it," one of the show's judges, Piers Morgan, told breakfast TV show GMTV. "It has been crazy, she has gone from anonymity to being the most downloaded woman in history."

AP

This is a May 24, 2009 file photo of Britain's Got Talent star Susan Boyle It's always a bad hair day for Susan Boyle until she starts to sing.

Boyle was favored to win the show's finals—watched by more than 19 million people—after a clip from her first appearance became the fifth most-watched in YouTube history, viewed more than 220 million times.

The discovery that a woman from a small Scottish town was capable of singing very well on a national stage turned Boyle into a modern-day Cinderella. On Oprah Winfrey's U.S. television show, the singer had said she was "loving every second" of her unexpected stardom.

But much of the media storm surrounding her debut was laced with snide commentary about her looks, her social awkwardness and her remark that she had never been kissed.

Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond was scathing about the media pressure, saying there were "elements of a press who like nothing better than to build people up and then drag them down."

By Friday, the pressure appeared to be building on the shy singer, who reportedly went into seclusion after exploding at journalists from Britain's notoriously aggressive tabloids.

Television company TalkbackThames on Monday said Boyle was "exhausted and emotionally drained" and was taking a few days off.

"She has been seen by her private GP (doctor), who supports her decision to take a few days out for rest and recovery," the company said.

London police would not confirm the report that Boyle was admitted to a clinic, but said doctors were called to assist a woman under the Mental Health Act, and the woman went voluntarily to a clinic.

The Priory—one of a chain of clinics known for treating celebrities including fashion model Kate Moss and musician Pete Doherty—offers treatment for a range of psychiatric problems as well as drug and alcohol addiction.

Boyle had looked tense and uncomfortable after giving a strong final performance Saturday night with "I Dreamed a Dream" from Les Miserables—the same song she chose for her April debut.

When Diversity was announced as the winner, she looked relieved and relaxed. Smiling broadly, she said the best act had won and wished the dance group all the best.

Boyle drew 20.2 percent of the 4 million votes cast in the final, behind Diversity's 24.9 percent.

Is northern Sweden too far to promote movie?

NEW YORK (AP)—The wilderness of northern Sweden, where Will Ferrell ate grilled reindeer eyeballs with adventurer Bear Grylls, seems like a long way to go to promote a movie and test-drive a television spinoff.

But that's where the two men were for 48 hours in early April, where the subzero temperatures made laughable the idea of spring. Their trip is chronicled on an episode of the Discovery Channel's "Man vs. Wild" series that debuts Tuesday at 10 p.m.

Ferrell climbs out of a helicopter by rope ("Mommy!" he shouts), is eased down a cliff supported by two sticks wedged in ice, trudges through waist-deep snow on makeshift snowshoes of twigs and spends a night with Grylls in a snow cave. Dinner, and breakfast the next morning, comes from the head of a reindeer carcass found along the way.

"Nine out of 10 actors would not do that," Ferrell deadpanned in an interview with The Associated Press.

Ferrell wasn't familiar with "Man vs. Wild," probably the looniest and most entertaining series in the adventurist genre, when his manager broached the idea. But the comic actor, who has run three marathons, warmed to the idea.

"I started watching it and thought, `this could be too crazy to say no to,'" he said.

All in the name of promotion, too: the Discovery episode airs three days before Ferrell's movie "Land of the Lost" hits the theaters. Ferrell plays a scientist who has some close encounters with dinosaurs in a time warp adventure.

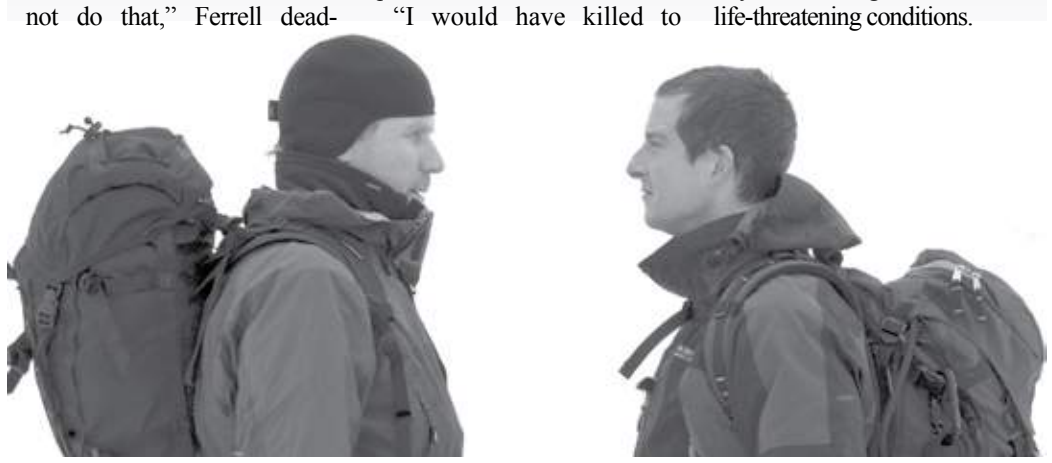
The "Man vs. Wild" episode is part a wider cross-promotion deal between Discovery Communications Inc. and the NBC Universal Movie studio. For instance, when the movie "Frost/Nixon" was released, Discovery's "Cash Cab" game featured questions from the Nixon era.

"I would have killed to have Will Ferrell out in the wilderness with Bear Grylls, even if we didn't have a movie to promote," said John Ford, Discovery's president and general manager.

The network was mulling the idea of a celebrity version of Grylls' show, and considers the Ferrell episode a successful pilot.

For adventurous stars, it undoubtedly has greater cache than a run on "I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here." But does it cheapen the "Man vs. Wild" brand, built upon Grylls' tips to survive forbidding environments? Ford said he didn't think so.

Grylls stows away a Twinkie for Ferrell to get some quick energy in a pinch. Of course, the actor downs it the minute Grylls first turns his back. The episode moves along briskly with Ferrell cracking wise ("I don't know how I got myself into this. I don't even like camping."), and Grylls reminding viewers of the life-threatening conditions.



AP

In this April 2009 image released by the Discovery Channel, actor Will Ferrell, left, and adventurer Bear Grylls are shown in the wilderness of northern Sweden during the taping of "Man vs. Wild" airing Tuesday, June 2, 2009 at 10:00p.m. on Discovery.

Conan O'Brien makes debut on 'The Tonight Show'

NEW YORK (AP)—A nervous Conan O'Brien debuted as host of "The Tonight Show" Monday. He started his first monologue after a long filmed segment supposedly depicting him running from New York to Los Angeles.

He joins a line of predecessors Steve Allen, Jack Paar, Johnny Carson and Jay Leno on television's most historic late-night franchise.

In his opening monologue, O'Brien said he remembered watching Carson as a youngster and saying that's what he wanted to do when he grew up. Now, the red-haired O'Brien says he imagines somewhere in America a kid is watching him and wondering, "what is wrong with that man's hair?"

He said the time of his move was perfect—NBC is a last-place network, California is going bankrupt and "The Tonight Show" is sponsored by General Motors.

AP

In this photo provided by NBC, Conan O'Brien interviewed by Jay Leno during Leno's final taping as host of The Tonight Show in Burbank, Calif. on Friday, May 29, 2009.

AP

In this Feb. 8, 2009 file photo, Neil Diamond performs at the 51st Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

Neil Diamond to play at July 4 concert in Boston

BOSTON (AP)—Boston's Fourth of July celebration will include a performance by Neil Diamond, whose "Sweet Caroline" is an anthem of sorts for Red Sox fans.

Diamond will join conductor Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops for the traditional concert and fireworks spectacular on the Charles River Esplanade. That's not far from Fenway Park, where fans sing along with "Sweet Caroline" during every game and where Diamond played a concert last summer.

Sponsors say about half a million people attend the free July 4 show each year. The final hour will be televised nationally by CBS from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m. EDT.

Remaining Beatles come together to promote game

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr came together to promote "The Beatles: Rock Band" video game.

The two surviving Beatles, along with Yoko Ono and Olivia Harrison, appeared Monday at Microsoft's Electronic Entertainment Expo presentation at the University of Southern California's Galen Center. Ono and Harrison were briefly introduced—but didn't say anything—before McCartney and Starr appeared on stage to banter about the upcoming game.

"Whoever thought we'd end up as androids?" joked McCartney.

In the music game developed by Harmonix and published by MTV Games, players will be able to follow—and perform as—members of the legendary music group, beginning with their early days in 1963 Liverpool through their final rooftop performance. Unlike its "Rock Band" predecessor, "The Beatles" edition will feature three-part vocal harmonies.

Forty-five Beatles songs will be available on the game's disc when "The Beatles: Rock Band" is released on Sept. 9, including "I Am The Walrus," "Back In The U.S.S.R.," "Here Comes The Sun," "Get Back," and "I Feel Fine." Microsoft said "All You Need Is Love" will be released for download on the Xbox 360, with proceeds going to Doctors Without Borders.

AP

The Beatles band members Ringo Starr, right, and Paul McCartney are seen at the launch of The Beatles Rockband Xbox game at the Microsoft Xbox 360 E3 Expo on Monday, June 1, 2009, in Los Angeles.

MSBNC, Starbucks in sponsorship deal

NEW YORK (AP)—MSNBC's chief executive says its new sponsorship deal with Starbucks doesn't mean the network will filter out bad news about the gourmet coffee chain.

Like sports teams that sell naming rights for their stadiums, MSNBC's "Morning Joe" news talk show with Joe Scarborough will become "Morning Joe Brewed by Starbucks." It airs each weekday from 6 to 9 a.m. EDT, and the Starbucks insignia will appear repeatedly on the show's logo at about the time hundreds of thousands of viewers are thinking about that first cup.

Bungle in the jungle: 'I'm a Celebrity' debuts

NEW YORK (AP)—Viewers may be saying "Get me out of here!" after the premiere of NBC's "I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here!"

The nightly competition show originates from the Costa Rican jungle, with semi-famous people competing for food, supplies and money for their favorite charities.

But judging from the first episode, with no one eliminated, most of the action is bickering and eating bugs.

Actor Stephen Baldwin, pro wrestler Torrie Wilson and former Illinois first lady Patti Blagojevich (bluh-GOY'-uh-vich) are among the show's 11 rivals.

"I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here!" continues for the next four weeks.

Couple's love life reawakens long after the kids are grown

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: After my wife had our sixth child, our love life fizzled out. But at age 80, we have suddenly discovered that we aren't THAT old!

How do we tactfully deflect kids and grandkids who enter without ringing the bell? I realize that lots of people would love to have this problem, but it's a problem all the same.

BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN

DEAR BACK IN THE SADDLE: Your letter made me smile. I'm pleased to hear there's still plenty of "hi-ho" in the old Silver.

If you haven't told your children and grandchildren that you would prefer they not enter your home without ringing the bell, my first suggestion is to speak up now. If you have, and your request is being ignored, then I have two more suggestions.

The first is to put a chain or double lock on the doors to your house; the second is to hang a "Please Do Not Disturb, the Old Folks Are Napping" sign on your doors when you're feeling amorous. I'll bet you $20 that because of entrenched misconceptions about sexuality in the over-70 generation, none of your children or grandchildren will question it.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Boy, do I need your opinion. My wife's youngest daughter has moved in with us, along with her three children: ages 3, 4 and 5. We are having a disagreement about allowing the kids up on the countertops.

My wife and her daughter think it's fine for them to pull a chair over and hop up on the counter. I have seen them on both sides of a stove full of pots filled with hot food. Because this has been allowed, the kids constantly crawl up to the cabinets to help themselves to treats and other things.

I have told them both countless times that this is the worst habit I have ever seen taught to children. I feel it's extremely dangerous and a bad idea. Please help me win this battle, or if you think it's fine, shut me up for good.

GRANDPA DENNIS

DEAR GRANDPA DENNIS: I'm on your side. Allowing a child to climb up on a counter is inviting an accident -- and to allow a child to do so when the counter is adjacent to a hot stove is child endangerment.

Your wife and her daughter are being far too permissive. Children that young should ask for treats, not be allowed to forage. Rules have to be set and enforced. What is to stop those children from dragging a chair up to a bathroom medicine cabinet and helping themselves to the pills?

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a single, independent, educated 26-year-old female. I recently bought my first house and enjoy living alone. My problem is, whenever I run into someone I haven't seen in a while and they learn where I am living, often the first thing he or she asks is, "Oh, you got married?"

I find it offensive that people automatically assume that because I bought a house I am married. How do I deal with a question like that and not hurt feelings in the process?

CONTENT IN VIRGINIA

DEAR CONTENT: You deal with it by not becoming defensive. Keep your sense of humor. The next time you are asked if you got married, smile at the person and say, "Did you get an invitation to the wedding?" When the person tells you no, end the discussion by saying, "Well, then, I guess I'm not married!"

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HI, MOM! HOBBES AND I ARE BACK! DO I HAVE ANY CLEAN CLOTHES? I MEAN, I'M JUST WONDERING!
I'M GOING TO MAKE MYSELF A FEW DOZEN SANDWICHES! UH... I'M REALLY HUNGRY!
NO NEED TO GET UP, OR LOOK, FOR EXAMPLE, OUT THE WINDOW! JUST STAY WHERE YOU ARE FOR ANOTHER 10 MINUTES!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
AAUGHH!
HA HA HA HA! NOTHING! UH, WHY DO YOU ASK??
6/3
© 1995 Universal Press Syndicate

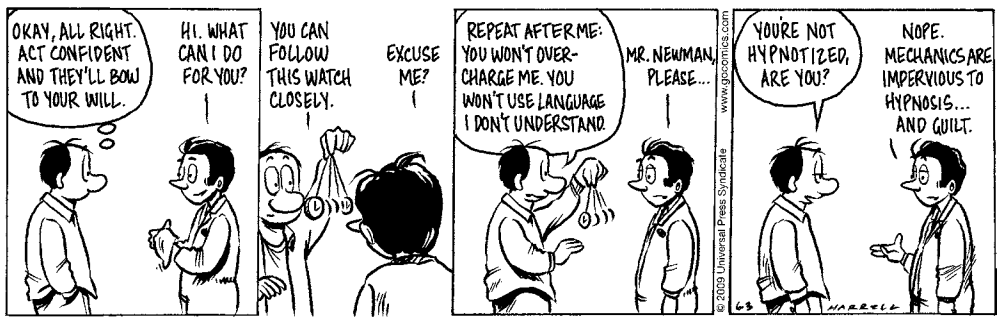
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

ALL THE STRAWBERRIES I BOUGHT ARE GONE
JIM DAVIS 6-3
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
FUNNY, THOUGH. THE SHORTCAKE IS STILL THERE
Text GARFIELD to 22646 US ONLY
SLAP
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

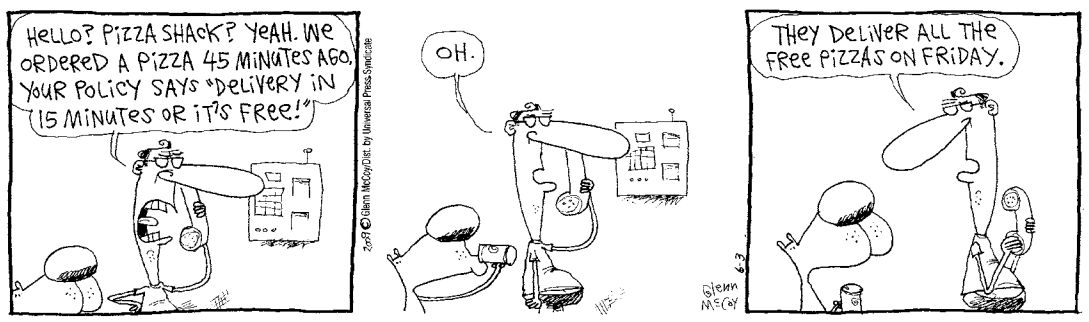
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY, ALL RIGHT. ACT CONFIDENT AND THEY'LL BOW TO YOUR WILL.
HI. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
YOU CAN FOLLOW THIS WATCH CLOSELY.
EXCUSE ME?
REPEAT AFTER ME: YOU WON'T OVER-CHARGE ME. YOU WON'T USE LANGUAGE I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
MR. NEWMAN, PLEASE...
YOU'RE NOT HYPNOTIZED, ARE YOU?
NOPE. MECHANICS ARE IMPERVIOUS TO HYPNOSIS... AND GUILT.
© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.gocomics.com
6/3

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HELLO? PIZZA SHACK? YEAH. WE ORDERED A PIZZA 45 MINUTES AGO. YOUR POLICY SAYS "DELIVERY IN 15 MINUTES OR IT'S FREE!"
OH.
2009 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
THEY DELIVER ALL THE FREE PIZZAS ON FRIDAY.
6/3

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

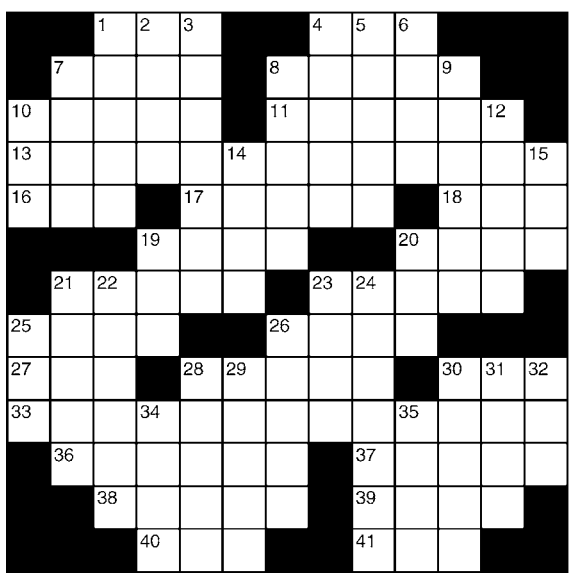
ACROSS
1 Part of T.G.I.F.
4 Dietitian's stat
7 Recognize
8 Express schadenfreude
10 Paris' subway
11 Boarding-house occupant
13 Prankster's time
16 Carnival city
17 Camel's cousin
18 Lemieux milieu
19 Witnessed
20 Poolroom supply
21 Steak variety
23 Gene Krupa's set
25 Two-way
26 Battle in the ring
27 Tarzan's creator's monogram
28 "Hammerin' Hank"
30 Schlep
33 State of delusory happiness
36 Suitor's actions
37 "Haystacks" artist
38 Art-class models, often
39 Newspaper page
40 Afternoon affair
41 Barbie's companion

DOWN
1 Preamble
2 Actress Spelling
3 Distended
4 Flourish
5 Simoleons
6 Pet food brand
7 French military cap
8 React to a pun
9 Monotony
10 Scratch
12 Marathons, e.g.
14 Run off
15 "Of course"
19 Fa follower
20 Director's cry
21 "Presumed Innocent" author
22 Mandrill, e.g.
23 Room access
24 Go wild
25 Dict. info
26 Boasts
28 Comment to the audience
29 Sleep-clinic study
30 Sheets and such
31 Second-hand
32 Obtain
34 Lummox
35 Block-head

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	O	C	K	■	S	C	I	■	T	A	M	P
C	H	O	W	■	E	A	T	■	A	R	I	A
A	I	D	A	■	C	R	O	C	K	E	T	T
B	O	Y	C	O	T	T	■	H	E	A	T	H
■	■	■	H	A	S	■	M	A	O	■	■	■
F	R	E	A	K	■	B	U	R	N	E	T	T
C	H	A	■	■	S	A	D	■	■	E	O	N
C	O	R	B	E	T	T	■	I	S	L	E	T
■	■	■	A	N	Y	■	A	L	L	■	■	■
A	M	I	N	O	■	E	L	L	I	O	T	T
M	E	G	A	W	A	T	T	■	G	R	E	W
I	R	O	N	■	D	N	A	■	H	E	R	O
S	E	R	A	■	O	A	R	■	T	O	M	S

Yesterday's answer 6-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lalaine, 22; Anderson Cooper, 42; Deniece Williams, 59; Suzi Quatro, 59

Happy Birthday: You have to put your skills to the test and make choices beneficial to your advancement. Get involved in whatever interests you the most if you want to excel emotionally, professionally and personally. This is a great year to strive for perfection. Following your ideas to completion will lead to the success you are looking for. Your numbers are 10, 17, 23, 27, 29, 33, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Concentrate on what you can do to make a partnership work better. Manipulate any discussion you have to favor how others will benefit from what you are doing. There is money to be made if you change a couple of your ideas, enhancing the final result. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Get whatever is bothering you out in the open. Once you at least begin the process of sorting through what needs to be done, you will be that much closer to getting what you want. An interesting development will unfold. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Change is upon you. You can sell your ideas, plans and talents to someone who can use what you have to offer. Don't be shy—you'll come across as an asset that must be acquired. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): If you stand up to whatever demands are being given, you will set a standard that will improve your personal position in the future. Stand your ground or it may also cost you financially. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Life will never be the same for you once you look at the people you are close to and realize where you stand. Don't get angry over past mistakes. Instead, take a positive attitude and make changes that will make your life better. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): The alterations you make now to your home or your geographical location will pay off in what you get back financially, emotionally and professionally. Don't sit idle because you are unsure of the future. Do your research quickly and base your move on what you discover. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let your lazy attitude make you miss out on turning one of your great ideas into a worthwhile venture. Participate in your social network or community and you can structure something that can lead to better opportunities and a great new friendship. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Refuse to let little aggravations from people control your emotions. Instigate some changes at home that will improve your personal space, making it more conducive to your goals. A lifestyle or personal direction change will help you excel. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may have regrets if you jump too quickly. The emotional repercussions will be hard for you to deal with and will leave you in an uncomfortable situation. Don't take responsibility for something you may not be able to fix or execute properly. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You need to get away and do something that will inspire you or bring back your enthusiasm. Visiting someone you find interesting or knowledgeable will help get you back in gear. Challenge yourself and you will learn something new. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Aim for the highest goal and you will achieve something spectacular. Good fortune and prosperity are heading your way. Be confident and you will find your niche. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't rule out the possibility of something or someone from your past making a difference in your life now. Looking back with optimism will help you initiate something now that you couldn't get off the ground in the past. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are tenacious and clever and stand firm for what you believe. You are emotional, sensitive, steadfast and strong.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			3	6				
			8		2			
6	9	2	1			5		
9							3	
4				8				9
5							6	
2	7	3	6			4		
			5		7			
			2	9				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	2	8	1	3	9	4	6	5
3	6	4	5	8	2	7	1	9
5	9	1	7	6	4	3	2	8
6	7	2	4	9	3	8	5	1
8	4	3	6	5	1	9	7	2
1	5	9	2	7	8	6	3	4
9	1	7	8	2	6	5	4	3
4	3	6	9	1	5	2	8	7
2	8	5	3	4	7	1	9	6

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/02

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WASHINGTON D.C.'S SPY MUSEUM **Solution: 6 letters**

M	G	W	C	S	S	E	I	T	I	V	I	T	C	A
S	N	O	I	T	A	R	T	S	N	O	M	E	D	L
I	I	R	N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	L	M	O	A
R	T	K	T	T	F	I	L	M	R	E	I	S	W	R
O	I	S	E	E	S	U	M	E	N	S	T	E	N	T
R	R	H	L	S	E	A	G	A	S	E	G	M	T	I
R	W	O	L	T	P	I	P	I	R	A	V	A	O	F
E	D	P	I	E	S	I	O	S	T	G	N	E	W	A
T	I	S	G	T	C	N	O	O	T	I	O	T	N	C
S	N	M	E	E	T	T	B	N	G	E	V	R	O	T
A	N	R	N	M	O	A	U	H	A	I	R	E	P	O
C	E	V	C	A	S	E	T	R	S	G	L	C	A	U
Y	R	T	E	G	D	A	G	I	E	I	E	L	E	R
P	A	R	K	I	N	G	T	R	T	S	O	T	W	S
S	L	I	A	R	O	R	T	E	M	Z	T	L	A	M

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Activities, Admission, Artifact, Demonstration, Dinner, Downtown, Elite, Espionage, Event, Film, Fugitive, Gadgetry, Game, Intelligence, Lectures, Lost, Maltz, Meet, Metrorail, National, Night, Panel, Parking, Past, Program, Register, Sabotage, Secrets, Site, SpyCast, States, Team, Terrorism, Tour, Visit, Weapon, Workshops, Writing, Zola

Yesterday's Answer: Consonant

WONDERWORD offers the "Book of Celebrities," for $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to **WONDERWORD**, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Age before beauty

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re Estate of GEORGE A. MANGLONA, Deceased.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-1061) NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 11, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of the Estate of George A. Manglona in and to the following property: Lots 002 T 25, 114 T 16, 006 T 17, 114 T 18, 057 T 18, 006 T 186, 008 T 85, 001 T 22, 035 T 18, and 035 T 19. All of these properties are situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. All sales are subject to court approval.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 10, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Ofices of Michael A. White, Esq., LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 22nd day of May, 2009.

/s/ **MICHAEL A. WHITE**
Auctioneer

Ramona S. Tebuteb
P.O. Box 501435
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 322-7067

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTION FOR: NOAH RICARDO MATAGOLAI QUITUGUA Minor Child by RAMONA SELEPEO TEBUTEB Petitioner) FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0278) NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 4, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205 A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 14th daay of May, 2009.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Ricardo & Maria Castro
PO Box 501337
Telephone: 234-6626

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR ADOPTION OF: MARIA JOSEPHA CAMACHO CASTRO A Minor Child, By: RICARDO & MARIA CAMACHO CASTRO, Petitioners.) FCD-AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0275) NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on the 4th day of June, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 14th day of May, 2009.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

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Contact Person: Celli Roberto - Tel. 671-646-7662 • Tony Scragg - Tel. 670-235-5572

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

AGE BUT

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Find today's solution in this section

Drunk Driving. Over the limit. Under arrest.

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2007
Guard files sex harassment suit vs principal. PAGE 3
2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PAGE 5
There is still hope for nonimmigrant statu
joins Micronesia
OPINION METER
With what you know of the CUC situation, do you support the adoption of
RELATED NEWS

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235- NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Federer comes back to beat Haas in 5 sets

PARIS (AP)—Roger Federer knows full well, of course, that Rafael Nadal is no longer around this year to befuddle him, to beat him, to stand between him and a French Open title.

Federer insists he is not thinking about that, not thinking ahead. Still, Federer sure did play as if preoccupied for the better part of two hours Monday, dropping the first two sets of his fourth-round match against 63rd-ranked Tommy Haas of Germany.

One point from letting Haas serve for the victory, Federer conjured up one particularly spectacular forehand that managed to change the entire flow of things. That shot spurred a run of nine consecutive games for Federer, sending him to a 6-7 (4), 5-7, 6-4, 6-0, 6-2 victory over Haas and a berth in the quarterfinals at Roland Garros.

"I knew I was going to look back on that shot. That saved me," Federer said. "I was in quite some danger."

But he escaped. With two more victories, Federer will reach a fourth consecutive final at the French Open, the only Grand Slam championship he hasn't won. Federer lost to Nadal in each of the past three finals and in the 2005 semifinals, but the Spaniard's 31-match winning streak at the clay-court major tournament ended Sunday against Robin Soderling.

"You're aware of it," Federer said. "Definitely changes it up, if I were to make the final. But we're not there yet, so honestly it hasn't changed a whole lot for me."

Federer now tries to reach the semifinals at a 20th Grand Slam event in a row, which would extend his own record, when he meets 11th-seeded Gael Monfils of France, a 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 winner over No. 6 Andy Roddick, the last American man in the tournament.

AP

Switzerland's Roger Federer reacts after winning a point against Germany's Tommy Haas during their fourth round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Monday June 1, 2009.

Federer is 4-0 against Monfils, including a victory in the French Open semifinals a year ago. Monfils dominated Roddick, even out-acing him 17-4, and Roddick began complaining in the second set that it was too dark to see.

"Don't tell me what's OK and what's not," the 2003 U.S. Open champion snapped at chair umpire Enric Molina. "You're not the one playing."

It was the day's last match on Court Suzanne Lenglen, and the start was delayed by No. 5 Jelena Jankovic's loss to the 41st-ranked Sorana Cirstea of Romania 3-6, 6-0, 9-7, which lasted 2 hours, 44 minutes.

"It wasn't easy at the end," said Cirstea, two points from defeat when Jankovic served for the match at 5-4, 30-love in the third set. "I saw she was tired, also. So I knew it was also a little bit mental: Who is going to stay stronger?"

Elsewhere, 2002 champion Serena Williams beat No. 24 Aleksandra Wozniak of Canada 6-1, 6-2; No. 7 Svetlana Kuznetsova defeated No. 12 Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland 6-4, 1-6, 6-1; and No. 30 Samantha Stosur beat Virginie Razzano of France 6-1, 6-2.

"This," Williams said, "is when everything counts."

No one knows that better than Federer, whose 13 major championships are one shy of Pete Sampras' record. With Nadal, Roddick and No. 4 Novak Djokovic all gone, Federer is the only man left with a Grand Slam title.

"For a lot of players," Federer said, "I think it must be quite a big opportunity, and their heads must be spinning right now."

The other matchup on his half of the draw is No. 5 Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina against No. 16 Tommy Robredo of Spain—two men who are a combined 0-6 in Grand Slam quarterfinals. Del Potro beat No. 9 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France 6-1, 6-7 (5), 6-1, 6-4, and Robredo eliminated No. 29 Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (4), 6-2.

"Expectations? Everyone has expectations, even myself," Robredo said.

There are two ways to look at what Nadal's loss means for Federer. A potential obstacle is out of the way. And now Federer is expected to win the title, which could be a burden.

Consider: Dating to 2005, Federer is 0-4 against Nadal at the French Open, 27-0 against everyone else.

"It kicks the door open for Roger, but suddenly: 'Yeah, step up.' Now the pressure's really on," three-time French Open champion Mats Wilander said. "The pressure before was to just give Nadal a good match. Now, it's like, 'Hey, listen, if you can't win it now, then you're definitely not considered the greatest player of all time—until you do.'"

Asked about Nadal, Federer joked: "Um, he didn't retire, right?"

"My dream scenario is to beat Rafa here in the finals," Federer continued, "but I've got to concentrate on my part of the draw and make sure I come through like today."

Good as he was at the start against Haas—Federer won the first 24 points on his serve—there were moments when his signature forehand let him down. Federer missed two in a row to fall behind in the opening tiebreaker.

When Haas took the second set, too, the prospect of the No. 2-seeded Federer following No. 1 Nadal on the way out was a distinct possibility. Then came the third-set point both Federer and Haas considered pivotal: With Federer serving at 3-4, 30-40—five points from losing—he ran around his backhand side for an inside-out forehand winner that landed right near a line.

"We both knew there was a chance for me to finish him off," Haas said. "Just got to tip your hat and say, 'That's why he's Roger Federer.'"

Bryant facing prospect of seeing Superman again

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant is staring down the prospect of sharing the court with Superman again. Only this time, it's Dwight Howard and not Shaquille O'Neal who's wearing the cape that Bryant wants to tug on.

Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers will be trying to win their first NBA title without O'Neal when the finals open Thursday against Howard and the Orlando Magic.

They failed to do so last year, losing to Boston in a humiliating Game 6 defeat.

O'Neal was traded after Los Angeles lost the 2004 finals to Detroit, leaving Bryant the undisputed leader of a team that won three straight championships at the start of the decade. Bryant still bristles at implications he had something to do with that.

"People that really know basketball know that that stuff means nothing," Bryant said Monday, deflecting questions on O'Neal. "It's nonsensical actually. You want to win just to win it."

Bryant, who turns 31 in August, is completing his 13th season. He kept to himself around his older teammates early in his career. Although he teamed with O'Neal to lead the Lakers to three straight championships, the two frequently zinged each publicly.

Adding a fourth NBA championship to the gold medal he helped the United States win at last year's Beijing Olympics would burnish Bryant's still developing legacy.

"You're thankful to be in this position," he said. "A lot of players never get to this position once in a career and I've been fortunate to be here for six times now. It's been very, very lucky."

Like O'Neal, Lakers coach Phil Jackson also departed after the 2003-04 season, and later wrote a book in which he called Bryant "uncoachable." Jackson then returned after taking a season off and has had a seamless relationship with Bryant ever since.

But there have been big bumps in the road.

Bryant implored the Lakers to surround him with better players in the summer of 2007, then demanded a trade.

The team responded by adding Andrew Bynum and Pau Gasol, and Los Angeles reached the finals last year for the first time since 2004. Bryant also won his first league MVP award a year ago.

Jackson initially noticed a change in Bryant's outlook two years ago.

"He ended up just racing away with the scoring championship on an incredible run of about 15 games in a row," the coach recalled. "When we came back the next year we just said we don't want that type of ball to happen again. We want more inclusiveness. There was a whole issue about us getting better talent around him and that's happened over the last two years and here we are."

Bryant often talks about his love for his teammates and the ways in which he's counseled them on improving their games. Derek Fisher's return last season clearly benefited Bryant on and off the court. They were teammates on the Lakers from 1996-04 before Fisher left for three years.

"He's continued to recognize that in order for him to accomplish some of his individual goals, the team goals have to match or exceed his own goals," Fisher said. "That means other guys around him have to perform at a high level. Things he can share with them, he knows how important that is, and how well we take it when he does. He's done a great job at it the last couple of years."

And when his teammates struggle, well, Bryant can always just take over games himself. He did so in the Western Conference finals opener against Denver, scoring 40 points and making six free throws in the final 30 seconds to cinch the victory after the Lakers trailed most of the game.

"He's just gotten more comfortable with where he is in terms of what he's capable of doing on the floor and knows he can always come back to that," Fisher said.

After losing the 2004 finals, the Lakers didn't make the playoffs the following season. They failed to get out of the first round in 2006 or '07, increasing Bryant's feelings of frustration and impatience.

"It's been a long haul to get back here for all of us," he said. "I certainly appreciate it even more. Once you have that celebration and that feeling of winning, of accomplishment, you want to have it again."

Magic mull possible return of Nelson for finals

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Jameer Nelson wants to play in the NBA finals. Whether the Orlando Magic will let him remains a mystery.

Nelson said Monday that he has been playing full-court games, participating in contact drills and practicing with the Magic for the first time since tearing the labrum in his right shoulder Feb. 3.

The All-Star guard had what was then called season-ending surgery Feb. 19. His rehabilitation was supposed to take at least another two months.

Magic general manager Otis Smith and coach Stan Van Gundy still expressed doubt Monday whether Nelson could seriously return for the finals. Smith said a quicker recovery and the chance of winning a championship has forced him to at least take a look at Nelson. Game 1 is Thursday night in Los Angeles.

"It's still no in my mind," Smith said, adding that the team will explore the idea even if Nelson doesn't return for Game 1.

Orlando was 2-0 this against the Lakers this season. Nelson was the Orlando's leading scorer in both those games, averaging 27.5 points. He has been lobbying the Magic for a chance at playing since the playoffs began, with each round the team advances the idea—and the talk—of him returning growing.

But even Nelson admits it will be difficult to convince the training staff and coaches that he isn't risking future damage.

"A miracle has to happen," Nelson said.

The Magic had the best record in the NBA in January behind Nelson, who was having a career season. He averaged 16.7 points, 5.4 assists and 3.5 rebounds in 42 games this season.

But their title hopes took a major hit after he was injured. A trade-deadline deal that brought Rafer Alston from Houston largely saved the Magic's season, allowing the rotation to remain the same and Anthony Johnson to continue to provide solid play as Alston's backup.

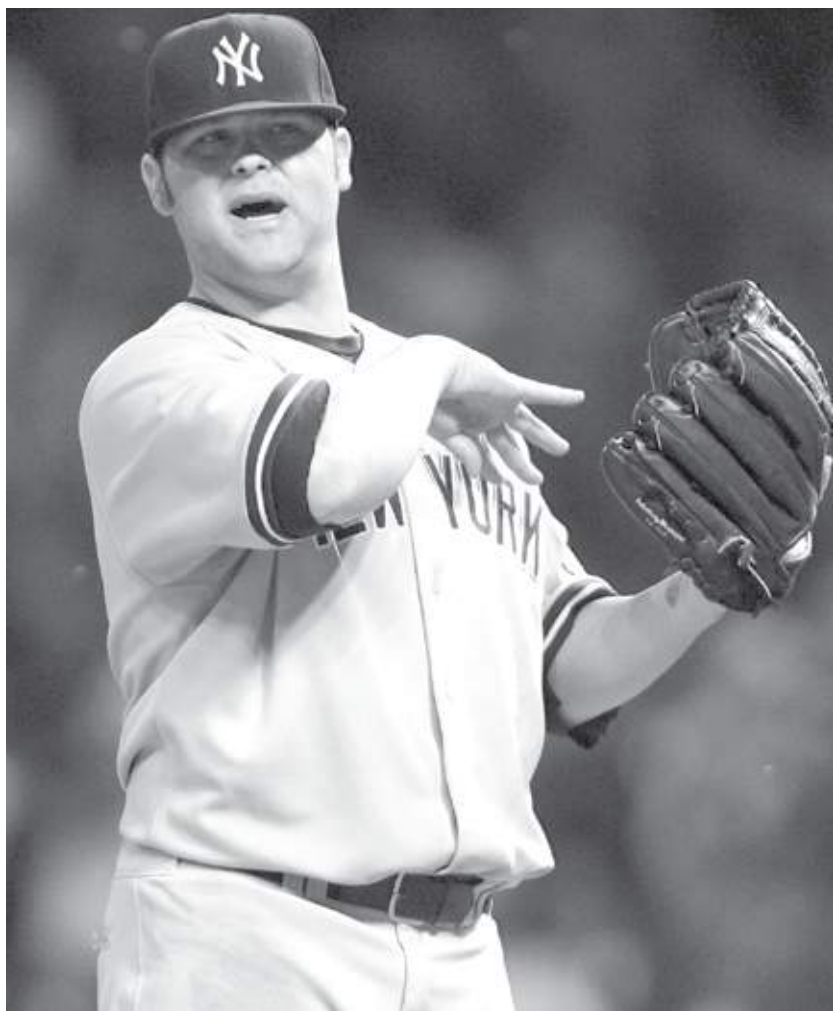
Yankees set errorless record in win over Indians

CLEVELAND (AP)—Joba Chamberlain allowed two runs in a career-high eight innings and the New York Yankees set a record for consecutive games without making an error in a 5-2 victory against the Cleveland Indians on Monday.

Chamberlain (3-1) retired the first 11 batters before Martinez's home run in the fourth. He allowed four hits, walked two and struck out five. Mariano Rivera worked a perfect ninth for his 11th save in 12 chances.

New York played error free for the 18th straight game, and surpassing Boston's mark of 17 games set in 2006. New York's last error came on May 13 at Toronto when shortstop Ramiro Pena(notes) misplayed a ground ball.

Nick Swisher doubled home a pair of runs and Alex Rodriguez singled home two more in a four-run seventh inning.



AP

New York Yankees starting pitcher Joba Chamberlain waves at a cloud of small insects as he pitches against the Cleveland Indians in the eighth inning of a baseball game Monday, June 1, 2009, in Cleveland.

White Sox 6, Athletics 2

At Chicago, Jim Thome hit the 550th homer of his career in the eighth inning to put the White Sox ahead and Chicago went on to beat the Athletics.

A.J. Pierzynksi homered and Scott Podsednik scored two runs for the White Sox, who won for the fourth straight time and have won 10 of its last 13 overall.

Oakland reliever Craig Breslow (1-4) allowed a leadoff walk to Scott Podsednik in the eighth inning. After Alexei Ramirez popped up a bunt attempt, Jermaine Dye singled off Santiago Casilla. On a 1-2 pitch, Thome hit an opposite field home run to left-center to put the White Sox up 5-2.

Thome is 13th on the career homers list.

Matt Thornton(notes) (3-1) struck out the side in the eighth.

Orioles 1, Mariners 0

At Seattle, Rich Hill threw seven scoreless innings, Adam Jones and George Sherrill came up big against their former team and the Orioles beat the Mariners.

The Orioles sent former ace Erik Bedard to the Mariners for top outfield prospect Jones, reliever Sherrill and three other players in 2008. While Bedard has been hampered by injuries, Jones and Sherrill have flourished in Baltimore.

Jones doubled and scored the only run Tuesday night on a sacrifice fly by Aubrey Huff off Jarrod Washburn (3-4) in the sixth inning. After Jim Johnson struck out two in a perfect eighth, Sherrill finished for his 11th save in 13 chances.

Astros 4, Rockies 1

At Houston, Roy Oswalt had a season-high eight strikeouts, Carlos Lee hit a two-run homer and the Houston Astros snapped a four-game losing skid at home with a win over the Colorado Rockies.

Oswalt (2-2) improved to 7-1 in 10 career starts against Colorado. He allowed six hits and two walks in seven innings to match his longest outing of the season.

Todd Helton hit a solo homer for the Rockies, who've lost five of their last seven. They're 2-2 since Jim Tracy replaced Clint Hurdle as manager on Friday.

Aaron Cook (3-3) lost his second straight start, allowing nine hits in six innings.

Marlins 7, Brewers 4

At Miami, Hanley Ramirez and Jeremy Hermida had RBI singles in Florida's five-run sixth inning and the Marlins rallied to beat the Brewers.

Jorge Cantu had two RBIs for Florida. Ramirez finished with three hits.

Eleven Marlins batted in the sixth, with the first eight reaching base safely. Jorge Julio (1-1) faced six batters and allowed five runs, four earned. He walked one and hit two batters.

Cristhian Martinez (1-1) pitched 1 2-3 innings to earn his first major league win. Matt Lindstrom pitched a scoreless ninth to earn his 10th save in 12 opportunities.

Pirates 8, Mets 5

At Pittsburgh, Andy LaRoche had three RBIs and the Pirates scored five runs in eighth inning to beat the Mets.

Adam LaRoche and Jack Wilson had three hits apiece for Pittsburgh, which came back from a 5-0 deficit to win for only the second time in six games.

Wilson Valdez had two hits and a career-high three RBIs for the Mets, who fell to 22-2 when leading after seven innings. Jeremy Reed added two hits and scored two runs.

Reds 5, Cardinals 3

At St, Louis, Mike Lincoln and four other Cincinnati relievers allowed one earned run in eight innings after Edinson Volquez left early in his first start since coming off the disabled list, and the Reds rallied to beat the Cardinals.

Lincoln (1-0) gave up only Colby Rasmus' sixth homer in three innings of relief and Francisco Cordero worked the ninth for his 14th save in 14 chances and 28th in a row dating to last July.

Volquez left complaining of numbness in the pinky and ring finger of his pitching hand after allowing a run on two hits. He will be examined in Cincinnati on Tuesday. Volquez, a 17-game winner last year, had been on the disabled list with back spasms.

Phillies 5, Padres 3

At San Diego, Chase Utley and Ryan Howard hit consecutive home runs in the fifth inning and Philadelphia beat Adrian Gonzalez and the Padres.

Gonzalez hit his major league-leading 21st homer in the sixth inning, followed by Scott Hairston's shot that pulled the Padres to 4-3. The Phillies got an insurance run in the eighth when pinch-hitter Greg Dobbs doubled with one out and scored on Shane Victorino's two-out bloop double.

Hairston came up with one out in the ninth and Gonzalez on first, and flied out to left against Brad Lidge. Lidge got the final three outs for his 13th save in 17 chances.

Joe Blanton (4-3) won his third straight start, allowing three runs and six hits in seven innings.

Kevin Correia (1-4) allowed four runs and 10 hits in 4 1-3 innings.

Diamondbacks 3, Dodgers 2

At Los Angeles, Billy Buckner threw six scoreless innings and rookie Josh Whitesell hit a two-run double, leading the Diamondbacks to a victory over the Dodgers.

Buckner (2-1) allowed four hits, struck out five and walked two. The right-hander, who began the season in the Diamondbacks' bullpen, has allowed six earned runs over 18 1-3 innings in three starts since being recalled May 22 from Triple-A Reno.

Tony Pena followed Clay Zavada and Juan Gutierrez out of the bullpen and gave up RBI singles in the ninth to Rafael Furcal and Juan Pierre before posting his first save of the season. Closer Chad Qualls was unavailable because of stiffness in his right forearm.

NFL BRIEFS

Graves looks forward to working with Boldin agent

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)—Arizona Cardinals general manager Rod Graves says he looks forward to working with Anquan Boldin's new agent, Tom Condon. Condon has not confirmed multiple reports that he had been hired by Boldin, but Graves ended any doubt with his comments after the Cardinals practiced on Monday. Graves says he's already had contact with Condon and anticipates a meeting with him later this month. Condon, who represents NFL stars Peyton and Eli Manning and Marvin Harrison, replaces Drew Rosenhaus, who was fired by Boldin. The three-time Pro Bowl wide receiver is in a long contract dispute with the Cardinals. He has been a no-show at the team's voluntary workouts after sitting out minicamp with what he said was a sore hamstring.

Ex-NFL player extradited in OC millionaire's death

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (AP)—A former NFL linebacker has been extradited from Connecticut to Orange County to face a murder charge in the 1994 shooting death of his ex-lover's millionaire boyfriend. Eric Naposki, 44, who played for the New England Patriots and Indianapolis Colts in the late 1980s, appeared in court Monday in Newport Beach. His arraignment was delayed until June 11. Naposki and Nanette Packard McNeal, 43, were arrested and charged last month with killing businessman William McLaughlin for financial gain. Prosecutors say Packard McNeal was a beneficiary of a $1 million life insurance policy on McLaughlin. Authorities say she persuaded Naposki to enter McLaughlin's home and shoot him several times as he stood in his kitchen. Both face up to life in prison if convicted.

Mickelson plans to return in time for US Open

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)—Phil Mickelson plans a brief return to the PGA Tour in time to play in the U.S. Open.

The world's No. 2 player suspended his schedule indefinitely upon announcing two weeks ago that his wife, Amy, has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Recent tests have given them hope the cancer has been caught early, with more tests over the next month.

Mickelson intends to return next week at the St. Jude Championship in Memphis, Tenn., then play the following week in the U.S. Open at Bethpage Black, according to a person informed of the plans.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because Mickelson had not announced his decision.

"We heard there was a possibility he would play," St. Jude Championship spokesman Phil Cannon. "That would be great."

Mickelson is a sentimental favorite at every U.S. Open, where at age 38 he already has tied the record for most runner-up finishes with four. He is especially popular in New York, and his presence at Bethpage Black figured to bring an emotional and raucous response.

He has never finished worse than fourth in his four U.S. Opens held in New York.

But his return might not last long.

Mickelson first thought surgery for his 37-year-old wife could happen as early as a few weeks since the announcement, but that has been pushed back for another month.

Her treatment and recovery will dictate whether he plays in the British Open, or how much he plays at all the rest of the summer. Mickelson already has won twice this year and is No. 5 in the FedEx Cup standings.

Amy Mickelson is among the most popular wives in golf, mingling with friends and fans with equal ease as she follows him around the course. The support has been overwhelming, with phone calls and messages and from players, and visible support on tour.

Saturday at Colonial, the PGA Tour Wives Association worked with the tour and title sponsor Crowne Plaza to promote "Pink Out," in which players, wives, officials and fans were encouraged to wear pink.

Ian Poulter was dressed in pink from head-to-toe, and most players wore some form of pink. Vijay Singh, one of Mickelson's fierce rivals, wore a pink shirt. Even the CBS Sports crew wore the color in support.

"We have been home watching the golf at Colonial surrounded by loved ones," Amy wrote Saturday on her husband's Web site. "Every time we see a player, caddy, announcer or fan wearing pink, we are overwhelmed by the love and support we feel. ... The 11 days since we received the diagnosis have been very difficult, but this incredible gesture helps us feel so much stronger."

Mickelson typically plays the week before a major to work into a competitive mode, but he has not done that in the last two years when Memphis moved into that spot on the schedule.

The last time he has played the St. Jude Championship was in 2001, when he missed the cut.

Mickelson was treated like a rock star in his last appearance at Bethpage Black, a public golf course on Long Island. It was held nine months after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and Mickelson had yet to win a major.

Starting the final round five shots behind, Mickelson got to within two shots of Tiger Woods on the back nine before Woods pulled away for a three-shot victory. Mickelson won the first of his three majors at the 2004 Masters, and he finally delivered for the New York area in 2005 when he won the PGA Championship at Baltusrol in northern New Jersey.

A native of San Diego, Lefty has become so smitten with New York that he takes a trip there every year with his family, and recently joined Liberty National, across the Hudson River in New Jersey.

"I love all that's going on there," he said last month. "It's a very sports-minded city, a very cultural city, an energetic city."

Hits for Brain on track for unbeaten season

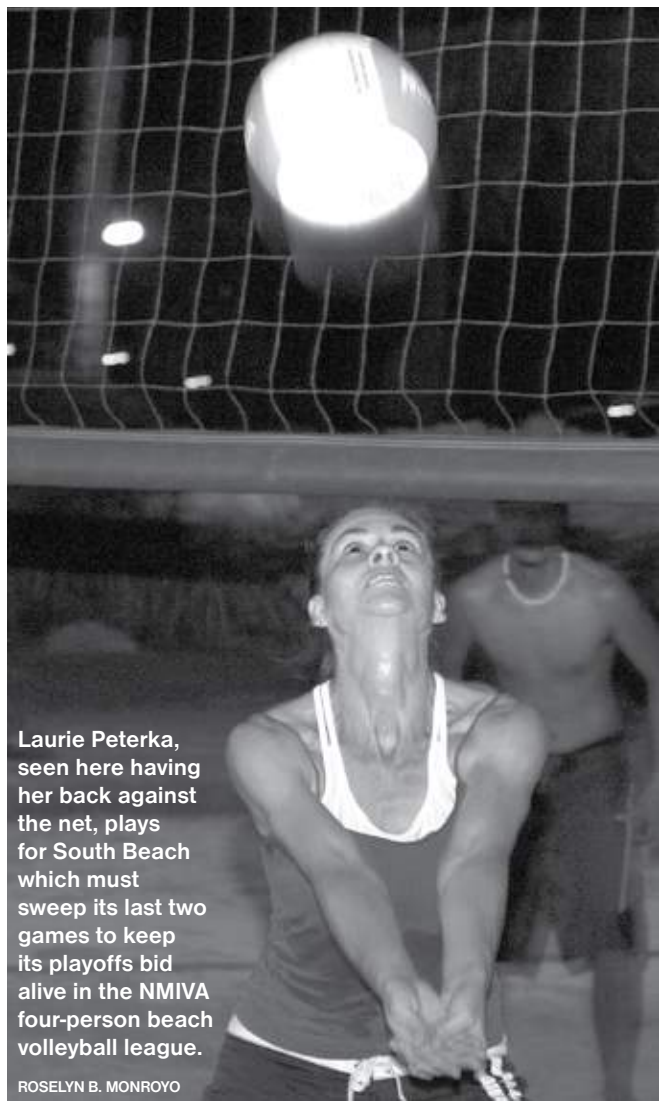
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hits For Brain is still on target for an undefeated season in the Miller Lite/Monster Energy Drink 4-Person Beach Volleyball League after notching its seventh win in as many games last Thursday on the Pacific Islands Club sand court.

Hits For Brain kept its clean slate and remained in second place behind Numa Numa (8-0) after beating We're Here, 21-16, 21-16, 16-18. A win against MHS One Heart last night could put Hits For Brain in a tie for the No. 1 spot. If Hits for Brain prevails against MHS One Heart, the battle of undefeated teams will take place tomorrow with Numa Numa colliding with Hits For Brains in the first game at 5:30pm.

While Numa Numa and Hits For Brains are assured of spots in the eight-team playoff round, squads in the lower half of the team standings are jockeying up for position.

Angry Red Dragon is currently in eighth place with its 3-5 slate after splitting its games last Thursday. Plum Smugglers tamed Angry Red Dragon in the second match of the night, 21-13, 20-22, 15-13. In the third game, Angry Red Dragon recovered with a 21-15, 21-10, 15-10 victory over We're Here.



Laurie Peterka, seen here having her back against the net, plays for South Beach which must sweep its last two games to keep its playoffs bid alive in the NMIVA four-person beach volleyball league.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

In the first game, UMESSUPUOUT topped South Beach, 21-16, 05-21, 15-13, dropping the latter to ninth place.

Excluding last night's games, the four-person league has four more playing days before moving into the playoffs and the remaining matches are crucial in determining the playoffs cast.

With a 3-6 record, South Beach must win its remaining two matches and hope others in the lower bracket drop a few games to keep its playoff chances.

Grace Christian Academy, which has a 2-5 record and is currently in 10th place, has four more games left and needs to win at least three to remain in contention.

We're Here and MHS Bobais are the only two teams that have gloomy prospects in the playoffs, as they are at the bottom of the team standings with identical 1-7 slates.

The No. 3 to No. 8 seedings in the playoffs is an open race among six teams, namely Hoof Hearted (6-2), Plum Smugglers (5-5), UMESSUPUOUT (4-3), Spankers (4-3), MHS One Heart (3-4), and Angry Red Dragon (3-5).

The playoff round is set for June 11 and has a single-elimination format.

11th Seaside Grill Beach Volleyball Weekend set

Pacific Islands Club will host the 11th Annual Seaside Grill Beach Volleyball Weekend on June 13 and 14 at the San Antonio landmark's sand courts.

At stake will be prizes for the top teams in the men's and women's doubles as well as the winner of the co-ed four-person competition.

Co-ed competition will be played on Saturday, while the doubles event starts on Sunday.

The co-ed competition requires a female on the court at all times.

Doubles teams would have to pay a $25 entrance fee, while $15 will be assessed each player for the co-ed competition with a maximum of five players per team.

Members of the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association get a 5-percent discount, while players under 17 years old will have a discount of 10 percent.

Aside from exciting volleyball action, players that sign up also get complimentary drinks courtesy of Pacific Trading Co., and waterpark passes for each of the two days of the tournament.

Champions in the doubles and co-ed events will receive cash prizes that would be determined by the number of entries in the tournament.

The 11th Annual Seaside Grill Beach Volleyball Weekend is sponsored by PIC, PTC, NMIVA, Gatorade, Pepsi, and Miller Lite.

Registration forms are available at the PIC Information Center and are due on June 12 at 12pm.

For more information about the 11th Annual Seaside Grill Beach Volleyball Weekend, contact Lindsey Sosovec at 235-6231 ext. 5147 or sportsmanager@picsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

Graf and Staal also earned a silver medal each in the 200m butterfly and 50m freestyle, respectively, while Shin had two more runner-up finishes (800m and 1,500m freestyle).

Siblings Kaisei and Ryosei notched three silver each with the former placing second in the 100m and 200m freestyle and 50m breaststroke and the latter having runner-up finishes in the 50m butterfly and 50m and 100m freestyle.

Three more Tsunami swimmers combined for four more silver medals with Hiroto having two (200m free and 200m IM) and Angel De Jesus and Ashley claiming one apiece in the 100m backstroke and 50m breaststroke, respectively.

Marystar came out of the pool with the most collection of bronze medals with five (50m, 100m, 200m, and 400m freestyle and 200m IM), while Hiroto had four (50 butterfly, 50m and 100m freestyle, and 50 breaststroke).

De Jesus and Staal pocketed three bronze medals apiece with the female swimmer placing third in he 50m, 100m, and 400m freestyle, and the latter completing the Top 3 in the 50m backstroke, 200m freestyle, and 50 butterfly. Wong, Shin and Kensuke, Kaito and Hiroto, and Kosei had one bronze medals each.

Hiro lauded the team's efforts in surpassing their medal target and encouraged Tsunami swimmers to work harder in succeeding tournaments.

"There were a lot of impressive and record-breaking races. May these results move our swimmers one step forward toward our goal of making more records. I hope to see them work harder in the next tournament," Hiro said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

The Guam Championship was held last Friday and Saturday and had Tsunami Saipan swimmers racing against the bets of various swim clubs in Guam and the Saipan Swim Club.

RANGERS

From Page 28

The Rangers-Falcons tiff was the penultimate one in the regular season, as the league closes out its double-round robin competition tonight. The last game of the regular season will have the Bob O'Connor Tigers facing the IT&E Young Guns.

The Young Guns have a 4-7 record and a win will tie them for fourth place with the Falcons (5-7). Only the Top 4 teams will advance to the next round with the Rangers, D-9ers, and Rock Steady securing the first three playoffs seats.

The Rangers are aiming for a return trip to the finals and a revenge against Rock Steady.

The Rock Steady-Rangers showdown last year became the most stretched out championship series in the history of the league.

The title series was only a best-of-five affair, but it took Rock Steady and the Ford Rangers almost three weeks to wrap up the finals due to the uncooperative weather and the rolling power outages then.

Rock Steady won the series after sweeping the last two games. The eventual 2008 champion lost Games 1 and 3 and won Game 2 via forfeit when the Rangers failed to bring enough players at the resumption of the power outage-halted match at the "Tan Ko" ballfield.

RACE

From Page 28

in the 4x400m relay race. Race secured her fourth medal after placing second in the 800m run.

Joining Race in the most outstanding athletes list were Saipan International School's Julia Ishikawa and Dandan Elementary School's Jerimo Okaruru (8-and-under); Tanapag's Juan Quitugua and Whispering Palms' Lucy Park (10-and-under); Dandan's Jeremy Lizama (12-and-under); Hopwood's Brandon Phillip and Rachel Abrams (14-and-under); and Kagman High School's Yvonne Bennett (18-and-under).

Race, Ishikawa, and Park were the only ones present to receive their awards from Northern Marianas Athletics president Kurt Barnes, NMA secretary general Robin Sapong, and Bobby Winkfield.

Park had two gold medals (400m run and 4x400m relay race) and two silver (100m and 200m), while Ishikawa prevailed in the girls' U8 1,500 and 800m races.

Okaruru ruled the boys' U8 200m and 400m runs, while Phillip topped two races (U14 100 and 200m runs) and the long jump event.

Phillip's schoolmate, Abrams, claimed two gold medals in the girls U14, winning the 100m and 200m races.

Bennett won the most gold medals in the tournament with four. She dominated the 100m, 200m, and 400m individual races, and led Kagman to a down-to-the-wire gold medal finish in the 4x100m relay run.

X-TERMINATORS

From Page 28

group in the fourth, but simply did not have the deep bench to do it.

PTC was held to only four field goals in the fourth period and dropped its last two games in the first round. PTC came off a sorry 99-100 loss to host Shirley's Coffee Shop last Friday.

Advance won its last two after stunning G4S last Friday, 91-63, and then thwarting the depleted PTC crew Monday night.

Apostol led Advance's second straight win, firing 24 points, while Olaitiman chipped in 21. The X-Terminators suffered their lone loss in the first round at the hands of second placer Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, 71-96.

Micronesian Brokers, Inc. ended its two-game losing skid after a 77-63 win over Shirley's. MBI finished the first round in third place with its 2-3 slate. Shirley's tied PTC for the last spot with their similar 1-4 slates.

Shirley's trailed by 10 at halftime, 29-39, but moved within three at the end of the third period, 53-56. MBI foiled Shirley's bid for another upset, limiting the host team to 10 points in the fourth canto. Jess Nicdao and Fradel Sedillo were the only two Shirley's player to score more than a field goal in the payoff period.

MBI had a 21-10 scoring in the fourth quarter, as it drew contributions from seven players with George Barbo leading the way with nine markers.

Shirley's caging will take a weeklong break before resuming action in the second round. Set to play at the start of the second round on June 10 are GS4 vs. MBI and Fiesta vs. Shirley's.

First Game

MBI 77 – Barbo 20, Alvarez 17, Sese 15, Cordero 8, Achas 8, Trajano 6, Blas 2, Prado 2.

Shirley's 63 – Sedillo 20, Angeles 18, Nicdao 6, Catungal 6, Drilon 4, Galario 4, Macario 4, Pineda 3.

Scoring by quarters: 18-16, 39-29, 56-53, 77-63.

Second Game

Advance 75 – Apostol 21, Olaitiman 21, Ritual 15, Daprosa 10, Lontoc 4, Adlawin 1.

PTC 67 – Lansang 24, Sarmiento 19, Taisacan 12, Babauta 8, Camacho 4.

Scoring by quarters: 12-15, 32-32, 61-53, 75-67.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	30	21	.588	-
Boston	29	22	.569	1
Toronto	29	24	.547	2
Tampa Bay	25	28	.472	6
Baltimore	24	28	.462	6 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	28	21	.571	-
Chicago	25	24	.510	3
Minnesota	25	27	.481	4 1/2
Kansas City	23	27	.460	5 1/2
Cleveland	22	31	.415	8

West Division

Texas	30	20	.600	-
Los Angeles	25	24	.510	4 1/2
Seattle	23	28	.451	7 1/2
Oakland	19	30	.388	10 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	29	20	.592	-
New York	28	22	.560	1 1/2
Atlanta	25	25	.500	4 1/2
Florida	24	28	.462	6 1/2
Washington	13	36	.265	16

Central Division

Milwaukee	30	21	.588	-
St. Louis	29	22	.569	1
Cincinnati	27	23	.540	2 1/2
Chicago	25	24	.510	4
Pittsburgh	23	28	.451	7
Houston	21	28	.429	8

West Division

Los Angeles	35	18	.660	-
San Francisco	25	24	.510	8
San Diego	25	26	.490	9
Arizona	23	29	.442	11 1/2
Colorado	20	30	.400	13 1/2

Yesterday's Games
Pittsburgh 8, N.Y. Mets 5
Florida 7, Milwaukee 4
Houston 4, Colorado 1
Cincinnati 5, St. Louis 3
Philadelphia 5, San Diego 3
Arizona 3, L.A. Dodgers 2
N.Y. Yankees 5, Cleveland 2
Chicago White Sox 6, Oakland 2
Baltimore 1, Seattle 0

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

SHIRLEY'S STANDINGS

Advanced	4	1
G4S	4	1
Fiesta	3	2
MBI	2	3
Shirley's	1	4
PTC	1	4

NMIVA STANDINGS

Numa Numa	8	0
Hits For Brains	7	0
Hoof Hearted	6	2
UMESSUPUOUT	4	3
Spankers	4	3
MHS One Heart	3	4
Plum Smugglers	5	5
Angry Red Dragon	3	5
South Beach	3	6
GCA	2	5
We're Here	1	7
MHS Bobais	1	7

Rites of Passage 6: Fists of Fury

PHOTOS By MARK RABAGO

Referee Tony D'Angelo raises the arm of Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan after he beat Maitai "The Charger" Charley in their bout in Rites of Passage 6: Fists of Fury held last May 24 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

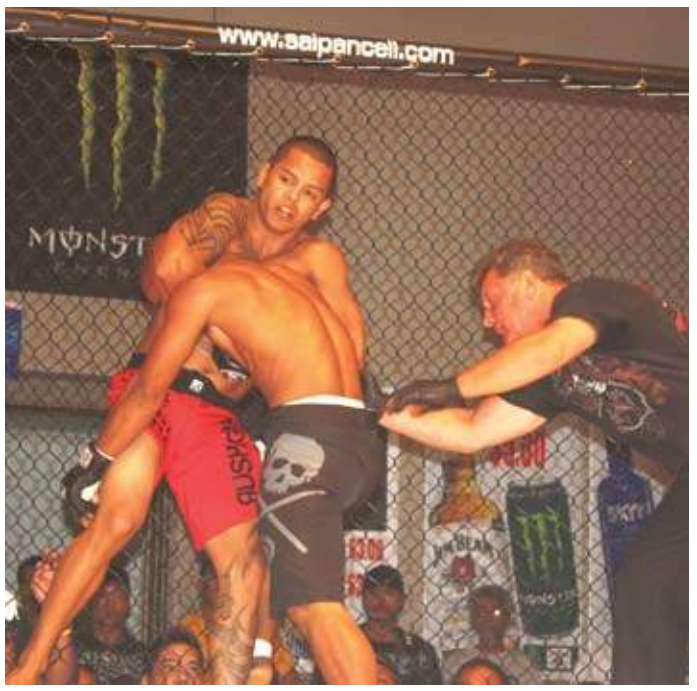
Saipan's Kevin "Drop Baby" Esteves and Trench Tech's Chris "No Luv" Laayug grapple each other down on the canvas. Laayug won the fight via knockout.

Team Pwang's Eddie Paulis, right, in action against Trench Tech's Joe Park. Paulis won by technical knockout.

Guam's Ray "Infamous" Apiag, left, went up against Saipan's Jun "the Ledgend" Taga in a rematch won by the former.

The Philippines' Aniceto "Gago" Ginaldo is poised to strike China's Junjie "Tiger" Choi with a high kick in their matchup won by the latter.

Guam's Tyler Perrot has Palau's Snyder Ongill in an rear-naked choke hold during their heavyweight fight. Ongill ultimately submitted and lost the fight.



Marianas Elite's Derrick "El Peligro" Rangamar pins Universal Reality Combat Championship bantamweight titleholder Justin "The Shocker" Cruz in one of the eight sides of the octagon. Rangamar lost the fight via referee stoppage in the second round.

Tinian's Johmar Untalan is attended by the ringside doctor after an apparent shoulder injury following his loss via tap out against Saipan's Louie Crisostomo.

Mark "The Dark" Nuique of Trench Tech looks for an opening against Joe "One Blow" Taga of Mesngon Bros. Nuique won via referee stoppage.

Guam's Jess "The Spiderman" Taitano executes a difficult triangle arm lock against Saipan's "Taby" Jay Muna, who later submitted in the 1:12 mark of the first round.

Federer comes back to beat Haas in 5 sets in Paris

Roger Federer knows full well, of course, that Rafael Nadal is no longer around this year to befuddle him, to beat him, to stand between him and a French Open title. **24**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Hits for Brain on track for unbeaten season

Hits For Brain is still on target for an undefeated season in the Miller Lite/Monster Energy Drink 4-Person Beach Volleyball League after notching its seventh win in as many games last Thursday on the Pacific Islands Club sand court. **26**

Tsunami swimmers surpass medal target

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmers show the trophies and medals they won in last weekend's 2009 Guam Championships at the Agatna Swimming Pool.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan collected 67 medals, surpassing its target of 50 for last weekend's 2009 Guam Championships at the Agatna Swimming Pool.

Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura brought 14 swimmers to Guam and together they produced 25 gold, 21 silver, and 21 bronze medals.

Bringing home gold medals for Tsunami Saipan were Rezne Wong (100m breaststroke, 200m individual medley, and 400m IM); Kai Staal (50m breaststroke); Kensuke Kimura (400m IM and 800m freestyle); Kaisei Toda (100m breaststroke and 400m freestyle), Kaito Yanai (100m freestyle, 50m and 100m breaststroke, 50m and 100m backstroke, 100m butterfly, 200m IM, and 200m medley relay); Kosei Toda (200m medley relay); Ryosei Toda (200m freestyle, 50m backstrokes, 50m breaststroke, 200m IM, and 200m medley relay); Hiroto Yanai (200m medley relay); and Ashley (100m and 200m breaststroke) and Marystar Welch (50m and 100m breaststroke and 200m backstroke).

Wong added four silver medals to his collection, after placing runner-up in the 50m butterfly, 50m breaststroke, 200m medley relay, and 200m freestyle relay. Wong teamed up in the two relay races with Cooper Graf, Shin Kimura, and Staal.

See TSUNAMI on Page 26

Race leads awardees in All Schools

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Whispering Palms' Gabrielle Race claimed her third straight most outstanding athlete trophy in the All Schools Track and Field Championships during yesterday's brief awards ceremony for the 2009 edition of the annual event at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Race, who ruled the 10-and-under division of the trackfest in 2007 and 2008, was among the eight athletes cited for their impressive showing in the All Schools meet held last month.

The 11-year-old trackster topped the 1,500m and 3,000m runs in the girls' U12 age group and was part of Whispering Palms' gold medal team

See RACE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Front row from left, Lucy Park, Gabrielle Race, and Julia Ishikawa, pose with their outstanding athletes trophies during the awards ceremony for the 2009 All Schools Track and Field Championships yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex. Joining them are NMA officials and coaches of participating schools.

X-Terminators gain share of lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The first round of the Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League ended Monday night with Advance X-Terminators forcing a two-way tie for the lead with G4S.

The X-Terminators improved to a 4-1 record and tied G4S for the No. 1 spot after downing Pacific Trading Co., 75-67, in the second game at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

After a neck-and-neck battle in the first half, Advance managed to finally control the match in the third quarter with Rodel Apostol and Mike Olaitiman joining forces. Apostol tallied 11 points and Olaitiman added 10 in the third period, turning a 32-all score at halftime to a 61-53 lead, entering the payoff period.

The hard-fighting PTC crew, which missed big man Jojo Garon, tried to re-

See X-TERMINATORS on Page 26

Advance's Rodel Apostol barrels through the defense of PTC's Mike Babauta during their game in the Shirley's caging last Monday at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rangers keep win run in BSML

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ford Rangers ended their regular season campaign of the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League with an 11-game winning streak after outclassing the Tanapag Falcons, 3-1, last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Rangers lost only once this season, bowing to defending champion Rock Steady, 6-5, in the league's opening last Feb. 20.

Franco Flores pitched for the Rangers in no relief, giving up only one run in the first inning before shutting out Falcons sluggers in the last eight innings. Flores made five strikeouts.

Leftfielder J.R. Suel gave the Falcons its only run at the bottom of the first inning on a Nunu Kapileo single. In the succeeding innings, the best that the Falcons could do was have second baseman Ned Norita on third base at the bottom of the sixth and left him stranded there after fifth batter Henry Iguel was beaten to first for the third out.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ford Rangers designated hitter Kelvin Kapileo practices his throwing skills while waiting for his turn at bat during their game against the Tanapag Falcons in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Rangers' three runs came from Pete Tomokane and J.J. Laniyo. Tomokane tied the game at the top of the second inning, reaching home plate on a Pat Alepuyo sacrifice fly.

Laniyo gave the Rangers the lead at the top of the third inning, 2-1, when he made it home on a Tomokane single. Tomokane scored his second run on a Ben Taisacan single.

See RANGERS on Page 26